Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-157 *15 August 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S., Russia Asked To Stop Israeli Raids on Lebanon

NC1408145995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Arab League announced that it is following with grave concern reports about the Israeli raid on southern Lebanon, which completely contradicts Israel's claims that it wants peace. Ambassador Ahmad Bin Hilli, the Arab League secretary general's adviser and chief of the Arab Department in the Arab League, asked the two cosponsors of the peace process—the United States and Russia—to put pressure on Israel to stop attacks on the residents of southern Lebanon. He pointed out the importance of supporting the Lebanese resistance in opposing the occupation.

On the issue of Lebanese detainees in Israeli prisons, Bin Hilli said that the Arab League had sent messages to the members of the UN Security Council urging them to take all necessary measures to enable the Red Cross and humanitarian organizations to visit the detainees. He added that the Arab League has prepared a detailed report on these detainees which will be presented before the beginning of the next Arab League Council session on 20 September.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 4 Aug

NC0908103595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 August edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. MB Detainees 'Tortured'; Al-Hudaybi Reaffirms Position
2. Al-Minufiyah MB's Appeal for Detainees Release
3. Nasirist Rejects Anti-MB Campaign
4. Writer Denounces Campaign Against 'Symbols of Thought'
5. Findings Do Not Implicate Sudan in Assassination Attempt
6. 'Nationalist Powers' Condemn Assault on Journalist
7. Report Details Conditions in Prison
8. Labor Party Secretary on Need for Change

MB DETAINEES 'TORTURED'; AL-HUDAYBI REAFFIRMS POSITION

A 1,000-word report by Qutb al-'Arabi and Khalid Yunus, pages 1 and 8, talks about "escalated security measures against the Muslim Brotherhood, MB, prior to the elections." and the "repulsive torture process" against the detained MB's.

It notes that the prosecution has remanded 20 people from Ashmun for 20 days pending investigation into the "scout camp case" and renewed the remand of "12 MB leaders."

The report talks of torture against the detained MB members "by hanging them from the feet, electrocuting sensitive parts of the body, and beating them." It adds that the state security forces "stormed the home of Dr. Mustafa Nawfal's father-in-law and impounded his personal computer, which stores his research studies and the theses he prepared over 15 years."

The report cites Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, deputy general guide and official MB spokesman, as affirming that "this campaign will not affect the MB's participation in the coming elections." "Many MB's are determined to enter the electoral battle... and some of the detainees will apply for candidacy from within prison through powers of attorney," al-Hudaybi said.

According to the report, al-Hudaybi remarked that the campaign is "merely a type of government terrorism, since the MB's situation is known to the government and the security apparatus and all their activity is public". He added that the recent campaign and the accompanying media row "only seek to smudge the image of the MB." He claims that the public "are well aware of the contradictions and falsities of this campaign."

Al-Hudaybi added that one of the objectives of the campaign "might be to push some of us into making a mistake or resorting to violence so that this can be taken as an excuse for a fiercer campaign against us. But we will not respond to the provocation. We are doing our utmost to warn our brothers, particularly the youth, against falling into that trap." Al-Hudaybi called on all to "adhere to the rulings of our religion and shari'ah and to stick to the Islamic code of ethics and to our clear line of promoting Allah's word wisely through good counseling, patience, and reliance on the Almighty."

The report notes that a "press conference" was to be held at the Engineers Syndicate headquarters in al-Minufiyah on 7 August "to expose the falsity of the charges leveled at the detainees."

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AL-MINUFIYAH MB'S APPEAL FOR DETAINEES RELEASE

The first page of the newspaper features a boxed 200-word "statement and appeal concerning the arrest of 200 people from al-Minufiyah," signed by "the Muslim Brotherhood and people of al-Minufiyah." The statement finds "not the slightest reason" to justify the continued detention of "200 honorable citizens," since the Scouts Association has denied "the false charges included in the statement of the Ministry of Interior."

The statement adds: "The Muslim Brothers in al-Minufiyah join the families of the arrested individuals and all the people of al-Minufiyah in demanding the release of the detainees and their rehabilitation to uphold justice."

NASIRIST REJECTS ANTI-MB CAMPAIGN

An unattributed 150-word report on page 8 says that "a number of Nasirist leaders have voiced their rejection of the intensified security campaign against the MB." Hamdayn Sabbahi, a member of the Nasirite Party's political bureau, is cited as saying that "Nasirists reject all forms of oppression."

"Our difference of views with the MB does not mean that we approve of the persecution of political intellectuals by oppression or imprisonment, but would rather engage them in a serious dialogue," Sabbahi points out. He says: "Only democratic methods are capable of showing the political ideas, principles, and visions our Arab people believe in."

WRITER DENOUNCES CAMPAIGN AGAINST 'SYMBOLS OF THOUGHT'

Under the title "Emergency or Anarchy," Dr. Sa'id Salamah Ibrahim writes in an 800-word column on page 2 about the arrest of "scholar" Dr. Muhammad al-Sayyid Habib, president of the Asyut University Staff Club, a "virtuous man" who has all the characteristics that "qualify him to represent the people and take care of their interests honestly and sincerely."

Dr. Ibrahim sees in the arrest "a phenomenon that confounds all criteria and standards... wastes all values... and the rights of those who elected him." He wants to know the criterion by which "the police authorities arrest God's creatures."

He says he regrets that things have reached a stage where "those who use dynamite as a means of expression and protest in dark dungeons" are no longer distinguished from "those who reason and use their intellect."

"We are not against an emergency law, as every law has disciplines...Only anarchy has no criteria or disciplines. We are certainly against an overpowering anarchy," Ibrahim writes. He adds: "We are suffering from an incurable disease; we fear the people around us and do not fear God; we know the right course and insist on taking the wrong one."

Dr. Ibrahim calls on all "conscientious pens" not to stop demanding the "release of the symbols of thought, intellect, and sincere nationalist action." He warns that if the campaign was against communists in the past, "it is against Islamists today and Nasirists tomorrow." He stresses that "all pens should unite to protect Egypt's intellectual wealth."

FINDINGS DO NOT IMPLICATE SUDAN IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

A 300-word report by Rabi' Shahin on page 1 says the findings of the investigation by the Ethiopian authorities into the assassination attempt against President Mubarak "confirmed AL-SHA'B's assertions that the Ethiopian authorities have not told Egypt that they are accusing a neighboring Arab state of involvement in the incident." The report adds that Ethiopia emphasized that reports that say Siraj Muhammad is a Sudanese national are "incorrect and totally untrue" and that "all the perpetrators are Egyptian."

The report asserts that the Ethiopian statement "bore no reference to accusations of Sudan supporting, training, or financing the terrorists who committed the attempt."

But the report claims: "Egypt insists on accusing Sudan because of the political differences between the two regimes, differences that rely on mutual doubts."

The report notes also that "the statements made by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the president's political adviser, Usamah al-Baz, did not unequivocally attest to irrefutable evidence proving Sudan's involvement in the incident."

'NATIONALIST POWERS' CONDEMN ASSAULT ON JOURNALIST

A 1,000-word report by 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad and Dawud Hasan on pages 1 and 8 discusses "nationalist powers' condemnation" of the assault against AL-WAFD Chief Editor Jamal Badawi on 1 August.

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri links the assault with a series of articles by Badawi that opposed "the law restricting the freedom of the press" and says that "the seriousness lies in dealing with those who hold particular views with a club or even hooliganism."

The Wafd Party, the National Progressive Unionist Grouping, and the "Freedom Commission" also con-

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demned the attack, demanding the quick apprehension of the perpetrators.

Page 2 features a related 1,500-word report by Yusuf Sa'd and Dawud Hasan, which cites various journalists on the assault on Badawi.

Writer Kamil Zuhayri describes the assault as "a serious issue, which we strongly denounce". Majdi Muhanna, a member of the Press Council, says he believes the incident was "a violation of democracy". He stresses that "the regime draws its legitimacy from its respect for the law, the Constitution, and public freedoms, particularly the freedom of expression and views." He adds: "When the regime loses all this, it loses its legitimacy."

Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, a member of the Press Council, says the assault was "a repulsive crime that casts doubts on some known quarters that are annoyed by any free view that defends the cause of the homeland and citizens."

Yahya Qallash, also a member of the Press Council, says he believes the assault shows that the government does not appreciate all the attempts journalists are making to contain their "crisis with it."

Journalist Salah 'Isa describes the assault as "a dirty war against the political opposition." Muhammad 'Amir, who is the chief editor of AL-HAQIQAH, describes the assault as "an act of piracy and cruelty and an unforgivable crime."

REPORT DETAILS CONDITIONS IN PRISON

A 2,000-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 2 describes the condition of "political and Islamist detainees in the Wadi al-Natrun prison," which, he says, "combines all the evils and human rights violations that are committed in military prisons."

Using a message the paper received from a detainee, the report describes the prison and the "appalling conditions" of the detainees. It also describes how detainees are processed, starting with "the reception ceremony" at which the prisoner's personal effects are distributed among the guards through "the severe beating" by electrified club and electrocution.

LABOR PARTY SECRETARY ON 'NEED FOR CHANGE'

A 5,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn on page 5 handles various issues, including the assault on the AL-WAFD chief editor, Jamal Badawi, the "wide differences" with the president, the need for a national project, and the "need for change."

Touching on the first issue, he remarks that "the rulers have lost their senses, reached the peak of criminal conduct, and attempted to murder opposition leaders publicly on the streets." He describes the assault as "attempted murder, not just a beating or hooliganism," in which "the rulers alone are the accused."

Addressing the writers "who responded to orders" and swore at Badawi in their writing, he asks: "Is it not time for you to revolt and refuse to get involved in promoting lies and falsities against your colleagues?"

Husayn says the recent law, no. 93, "is just a link in the chain of measures that preceded it, the chain affirming that the rulers' fight against democracy continues and is sustained." He remarks that the law was issued to "close the door to the pluralism of the parties and thinking and to break the pens of criticism and thus prepare for rigging the People's Assembly elections in November so that the rulers can stay in their positions by force and fire." He links "Muslim Brotherhood members' detention" with the same chain of measures, noting that "it was designed only to weaken the government's contenders in the coming elections."

Husayn maintains that the assault on Badawi "was planned and committed by security machinery accustomed to breaking the law."

Addressing the president, Husayn says: The people "will take nothing less than an order from you to launch an urgent investigation into this unprecedented terrorist crime." He demands the trial of the planners and perpetrators of the assault and the "dismissal" of the officials who are responsible.

Moving on to the second subject, Husayn says the president's statements "affirm that he is primarily and directly responsible for the conditions about which we complain." He says the president "is stubbornly determined to implement the policies we see as extremely harmful to our Egyptian, Arab, and Muslim nation." He sees "no use in acquitting the president of direct political responsibility" and says he believes the only thing to be done is "to talk to the people frankly" about the president's responsibility so that they can rely on themselves in "making the necessary reform." He states that "rights are not granted from higher up, but come through pressure and struggle down among the masses."

Husayn continues: "It has become clear that the president does not see the hazards in the same way the people do. Nor does he appreciate the wrath harbored by the greater majority. It seems he does not see clearly the lies of the hypocrites who submit false reports and who stand to benefit from the survival of corruption. Even if his assessment is like one that sincere and reasonable people would make, he does not share their view that the way out of the predicament is to open wider doors

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for consultation and participation. He believes that the way to control the political crisis is to silence the opposition by force, through further reliance on the security apparatus."

Husayn adds that "what happened after Addis Ababa proves that desolation is coming, as long as the president remains isolated from his people and fails to recognize the deep need for change."

In the third point, Husayn refers to the Labor Party's call for "a national project for Islamic revival to cleanse ourselves of corruption, shun humiliation and weakness, and build a political and economic power that confronts the enemies and unites the Arabs." He warns that this project require us "to change ourselves a lot." According to him, this can only happen when Muslims and Christians "return to religion."

He suggests talk by the president of a national project "shows a clear difference in concepts," since the president's project means "just a big engineering project," not "a comprehensive revival."

Husayn maintains that the Egyptian State "lacks political leaders and depends on mere administrative staff and technicians." He sees in 'Atif Sidqi's continuing chairmanship of the Cabinet a "sign of political bankruptcy."

Husayn says "the president in Egypt makes the major decisions alone, not through establishments that have specific powers." He cites excerpts from an interview the president gave to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH to prove his point.

Husayn states: "We disagree with the president in his vision of the major goals and the national project and about the administrative methods he applies. We demand that the scope of participation in political action be widened and refuse to let the regime be built on a politician who monopolizes political action, regardless of his sincerity or genius."

Husayn continues: "The entire people, Mr. President, demand change to safeguard the homeland's present and future. What President Mubarak defends and is careful to maintain is exactly what we demand to be changed and reformed."

He states: "We fight for the people's right to free elections to settle the issues on which we differ. We will spare no effort to mobilize the people for that struggle, which includes the release of all freedoms...If prison awaits us, they are welcome. And if murder threatens us when we are unarmed and without protection, God's backing is enough for us."

Addressing "opposition leaders and pioneers of thought," he says "struggle will begin by a resolute position in one line against the detention of the Muslim Brotherhood and against the assault against Jamal Badawi."

"I call for a nationwide popular rally the roar of which will terrorize the rulers," he says.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 8 Aug

NC1308081595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 8 August edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Fresh Arrests of MB Members Reported
2. Columnist Defends Brotherhood
3. Hundreds Questioned Over Mubarak Assassination Attempt
4. Deputy Guide Dismisses Charges Against Brotherhood
5. Party Official Demands Popular Trial of Butrus-Ghali
6. Writers Denounce Assault on AL-WAFD Editor
7. Rally in Solidarity With Detainees Held
8. Relatives View Detainees' Plight
9. Campaign Against Brotherhood Viewed

FRESH ARRESTS OF MB MEMBERS REPORTED

Khalid Yunus and Mujahid al-'Arusi write a 1,200-word report on pages 1 and 8 on a new security campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. The report notes that policemen in al-Minufiyah Governorate prevented a news conference at the Engineering Syndicate in the city of Shibin al-Kawm scheduled for 7 August to explain the background of the "Scout Camp Case." It notes that in the case, several participants were arrested and charged with belonging to the MB, including engineers and professionals. The article adds that police surrounded the syndicate's building and prevented syndicate members and relatives of the detainees from entering the building. The report also notes that 25 youths were arrested on 3 August while playing soccer in an open field in Cairo's Hada'iq al-Qubbah area and were accused of belonging to the MB. They were held for two days at the al-Zaytun Police Station, where they were "subjected to all types of torture." Eighteen of them have been released and the rest were referred on 5 August to the Higher State Security Prosecution Department, where they were questioned on "ludicrous" charges. Among them was the charge of "carrying out the MB leaders' instructions to take advantage of the summer

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holidays to recruit youths by organizing sports activity for them and indoctrinating them with the Brotherhood's ideas, which include instigation for the hatred and contempt of the regime." The report adds that the Prosecution Department has ordered their release, but they are still being held in the al-Zaytun Police Station. The report names the detainees as follows: Mahmud Sabri, 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Mun'im, 'Imad al-Sadiq, Hazim Isma'il, Majdi Qamar-al-Dawlah, Yasir 'Ali, and Ashraf Ahmad. Meanwhile, the report notes that the Public Attorney has referred the case of the "Alexandria Scout Camp Case" to the Higher State Security Prosecution Department, which will begin questioning those accused of belonging to the MB on 9 August. In connection with the case, the report adds that the treasurer of the Tamlay Youth Center, to which the detained camp participants belong, has told the prosecutors that the scout camp in al-'Amiriyah is organized by his youth center and that the letters and correspondence related to the suspects' presence at the Alexandria Camp are genuine and not forged, as alleged by the al-Minufiyah Youth and Sports Directorate.

In another part of the report, the writers note that "Western embassies in Cairo have warned their governments of a wave of instability as a result of the rising government onslaught against the MB." The report adds: "AL-SHA'B has learned from Western diplomatic sources in Cairo that embassies' political reports do not rule out the possibility that one of two violent reactions by the brothers and their sympathizers could occur." The article says: "the first one assumes that the onslaught will be stepped up and more Brotherhood figures will be arrested, then despite these diplomats' convictions that MB leadership is strictly ordering members not to resort to violence no matter how far their group is subjected to government persecution, Brotherhood youths who are not known to the security agencies may be irrational enough to take violent action against the regime's symbols in various areas." The report adds: "The second reaction outlined in these embassies' reports is an increase in the anger of fundamentalist youths against the West and Western interests and investments in Egypt, considering that the West is the main supporter of the Egyptian regime."

WRITER DEFENDS BROTHERHOOD

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, an MB sympathizer, defends the role of the group in a 500-word column on page 10.

HUNDREDS QUESTIONED OVER MUBARAK ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

A 400-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 says hundreds of Islamic detainees have been questioned in connection with the assassination attempt against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June.

DEPUTY GUIDE DISMISSES CHARGES AGAINST BROTHERHOOD

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Guide Mustafa Mashhur refutes the accusations made against him and the Brotherhood in a 2,000-word article on page 5.

PARTY OFFICIAL DEMANDS POPULAR TRIAL OF BUTRUS-GHALI

Labor Party Vice President Dr. Hilmi Murad, in a 1,500-word article on page 5, views the Serbian attacks against Muslim civilians in Bosnia amid the failure of the UN troops to deter aggression. He notes that this is happening while Arab and Islamic nations are "fast asleep," confining themselves to statements of denunciation. In Egypt, he adds, the government has failed to organize a donation campaign for Bosnians and has prohibited private groups from doing so. He notes that had the money spent on film and art festivals, graduation ceremonies, visiting delegations, and ceremonies expressing joy at the president's escape from the assassination attempt been directed to the victims of the brutal war in Bosnia, it would have satisfied Egyptians' desire to help Bosnian Muslims. Turning to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's handling of the situation, he notes that the accusations made against him are not without proof. Noting that since the Egyptian Government does not want to strip him of his nationality as an expression of its dissatisfaction with his attitude; and since he has no desire to resign his post to protest the Western-Russian scheme, Murad urges the government to allow political parties to organize "a popular trial" for Butrus-Ghali by a tribunal made up of law professors, former diplomats, and military strategists to which he could be invited so as to defend himself in the face of the accusations made against him.

WRITERS DENOUNCE ASSAULT ON AL-WAFD EDITOR

The campaign denouncing the assault on AL-WAFD chief editor Jamal Badawi continues in this issue of AL-SHA'B. A 300-word unattributed report on page 1 notes that a week has passed since the "abominable assault" against Badawi amid failure by the security authorities to adopt serious and necessary measures to arrest the perpetrators, something that shows that "official government quarters are directly behind this

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crime in an attempt by the State to terrorize opposition journalists and settle accounts with them in a manner that runs counter to the basic rules of democracy."

Chief editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn, in a 2,500-word article on page 2 entitled "We Will Defend Freedom of the Press Despite Thuggery and Threats of Murder," notes that the timing and circumstances of the "dirty assault" on Badawi "point a finger of accusation at the government, or more specifically, one of its agencies." He notes that the incident is one episode in a "ferocious campaign" against the "remaining freedoms in this country," which started with the introduction of amendments to the press law. He adds: "It sends the clear message to journalists that the authority will achieve its goals by hook or by crook." Again regarding Badawi, Husayn argues that the "highest levels" are "extremely angry with him," not because of his opposition to the press law, but for two specific articles he has written; the first commented on President Mubarak's alleged remarks to Kuwait's AL-WATAN; the second criticized Mubarak's interview with AL-SIYASAH editor Ahmad al-Jarallah. As a result, he adds, a campaign was initiated against him in the government press and chief editors of government papers were directed to write against Badawi—"the main threat to national security." In addition, Husayn writes, the television program he hosts, entitled "Egyptian Stories," has been canceled. When Badawi asked television director Suhayr al-Itribi why, she replied: "Why are you against the government?" Husayn recalls a conversation he heard between Badawi and an unnamed government official, who told Badawi: "Mr. Jamal: You have gone too far in your article about the president," referring to Badawi's 13 July AL-WAFD article that criticized the president for accusing the Egyptian people of not giving enough to their country. Husayn notes that Badawi also objected to Mubarak's interview with al-Jarallah, who has been sentenced to prison in absentia by an Egyptian court for slandering an Egyptian television broadcaster. Husayn believes the assault on Badawi is not against him personally but is intended to "terrify everybody." Concluding, Husayn adds: "We will never back down on our firm opposition to this complete, barbaric onslaught against the miserable margin of democracy and we will endeavor to broaden it because this is our Constitutional, human, and historic right. We will not backtrack, even if our blood is shed." He adds: "We cannot afford to lose this battle and therefore, we will win, God willing, as God has promised us. It is a promise that is neither comprehended nor appreciated by the tyrants or the masters of despotism, crime, and thuggery. We see their end clearly before our eyes like daylight."

A news conference held by Badawi on 4 August to explain the assault against him is reported by Dawud Hasan in a 1,200-word report on page 8. Speaking at the news conference, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn described the attack as one of the most serious incidents in the history of Egyptian politics in many years. He called on the government to explain who else would carry out or have an interest in committing such crime. He called for an emergency meeting of the opposition parties' chiefs to lay down a plan to face such aggression.

RALLY IN SOLIDARITY WITH DETAINEES HELD

A 600-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 6 describes a rally organized by the Labor Party on 2 August in al-Mansurah entitled "The Role of Parties and Civic Institutions in Securing Election Guarantees and for Solidarity With the Detainees." Representatives from all political parties and some trade unions took part in the rally. Speakers called for the abrogation of all freedom-restricting laws, full supervision of the elections by the judiciary, and the immediate release of all detainees. Muhammad al-Sakhawi, member of the Labor Party's Central Secretariat for Organization, noted that there is an international "siege" against Muslims in Libya, Iraq, Sudan, and Bosnia with the purpose of "wiping out the Islamic awakening," something that will only make us cling tighter to our Islamic identity. Concerning detentions, al-Sakhawi pointed out there are about 40,000 detainees in Egyptian prisons. He adds: "It is unreasonable for the regime to suddenly realize that the MB represents an active current in society and, therefore, arrest its leaders. The brothers represent a trend with an influence in the Egyptian street, as political forces affirm." Brotherhood representative Salih al-Banna has called for solidarity among political parties and forces to field the candidates chosen by the people, not the government, in the coming elections. He also called for fighting the "despair" that is spreading among Egyptian people, which is meant to "destroy this Muslim nation."

RELATIVES VIEW DETAINEES' PLIGHT

A 1,000-word letter from Nahid Labib Ja'far, wife of journalist Muhsin Radi, who is "wanted for detention," is published on page 2. Introducing the letter, the paper says it is from a wife whose house was broken into by Interior Ministry men, in the absence of her husband, and did in it what the "Zionists do in the houses of the Palestinian strugglers." The paper adds that this letter is a message to whom it may concern and to the Press Syndicate so that it may adopt a firm stand against violations of the freedoms and dignity

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of journalists. In her letter, Ja'far describes how State Security Intelligence officers "broke into" her house on 17 July 1995, in the absence of her husband. Apparently searching for evidence to incriminate her husband, the security men "tampered" with everything in the house, including personal effects and children's toys, searched every inch, confiscated books, tapes, and other items, and even "stole" money in front of her children, who were "horrified" by the scene. She describes her husband as an "honest journalist with a good reputation, who is known and liked by everyone in Banha city and who runs al-Fath Islamic School, a private school with a good reputation."

A 1,000-word report by Subhi Buhayri on page 6 notes that political detainees in al-Wadi al-Jadid, al-Fayyum, Wadi al-Natrun, Turah, and other prisons are subjected to "slow murder" at the hands of the government. The report adds that the Interior Ministry has banned visits to detainees in al-Wadi al-Jadid prison by their relatives. Reports from that prison say 17 detainees died in that prison alone in June, including a lawyer whom the Interior Ministry said died from an acute drop in blood pressure. The report adds that on 3 August, the Women Secretariat in the Labor Party invited mothers of detainees who had recently not been allowed to see their sons to the Labor Party's headquarters. Scores of mothers and wives came to find a way to ease their pain, the report adds. The detainees' relatives told Labor Party officials of their tragedies as well as the "torture" and "humiliation" the detainees have been subjected to front of their mothers and wives. In the report, the relatives recounted stories about the suffering of their relatives and families. The report notes that these relatives' only hope is for the president to intervene personally to end their tragedies. Dr. Najla' al-Qalyubi, official in charge of the Labor Party's Women Secretariat, has decided to set up a committee for detainees' affairs. The committee will submit a memorandum to the president signed by the relatives who attended the meeting and to the Public Attorney to improve the detainees' conditions and release those not indicted, the report adds.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST BROTHERHOOD VIEWED

Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, member of the Press Syndicate Council, writes on page 2 that the "war" launched by the government against the MB proves beyond doubt that the government has run out of "tricks" and has become "bankrupt" in its confrontation of the Islamic current, with just a few months to go before the parliamentary elections. In a 700-word article, the writer notes that the government's only way to win these elections is to detain its rivals and use the 15-year-old emergency law to keep them behind bars until the deadline for the election passes. The writer argues that together with the Labor Party, the MB once made up the largest parliamentary bloc in the People's Assembly. Accordingly, the Brothers cannot be accused of sneaking into professional associations and trade unions. He adds: "We are not here defending the Muslim Brothers, for their good deeds attest to them. We are defending the great Egyptian people, whom our failing government wants to deny the honest dedication of the MB." Concluding, he adds: "The unjust campaign of arrests against some of the elite people in this nation on grounds of membership of an unlawful group is doomed to fail, because the great Egyptian people know the reality of the MB." He adds: "Believe me, the performance of the MB in future elections will, God willing, be greater than ever, sooner or later. If these unjust people win once or twice by forgery, as they promise, it will not last forever, and history will tell."

In a 600-word column on page 7 entitled "The Government's Heavy Stick," Ahmad al-Siyufi denounces the government's heavy-handed policy against its opponents, including beatings and detention. He adds: "The government has suddenly discovered that there are strange creatures in Egypt called Muslim Brothers, it has not heard about them, does not know where they are, does not know who their guide is, does not know that they had 30 representatives in the People's Assembly, and that they are present in most of the important professional associations, teaching clubs, and local councils. Certainly it is not the fault of the government, which lives in Costa Rica and knows nothing about what is going on in Cairo." He argues that in the face of this onslaught, people need real "safe havens" to shelter them from the government's "heavy stick," which grows bigger daily. Concluding, he calls on the country's patriotic forces to stand shoulder to shoulder in the face of the random arrests, fabricated charges, and violations of freedoms.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Declare State After IDF Withdrawal

TA1508092995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Orly Azulay-Katz in Tunis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat plans to declare the establishment of a Palestinian state the day the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] completes its withdraw from West Bank cities, according to Palestinian sources in Tunis.

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According to these sources, a secret team appointed by 'Arafat a few days ago has been laying the groundwork for such a declaration and checking all the legal aspects of such a move.

'Arafat instructed the small team dealing with the issue to keep the plans secret to prevent the possibility that Israel might at the last minute decide not to sign the agreement reached in Taba.

Among other things, 'Arafat ordered the members of the team to meet with a French lawyer who has been working on a draft of the new state's constitution and checking all the issues pertaining to the elections.

'Arafat told associates in recent days that he considers the agreement a big achievement because it actually symbolizes the end of Israeli occupation. 'Arafat noted that Israel's top government officials realize this fact and are preparing accordingly.

The secret team has been meeting in Tunis in a bid to prevent leaks and keep elements who could torpedo the move in the dark.

'Arafat has been speaking emotionally to associates about his role in the history of the Palestinian people, stressing that what matters to him most is the declaration of the Palestinian state, which would take place in the wake of the agreements with Israel.

According to the sources, 'Arafat plans to hold the declaration ceremony in Jericho, where he has already set up an office and named Dr. Sami Musallam, the director of his Tunis bureau, as its chief.

The PLO leader has also instructed his men to approach Mahmud Darwish, the Palestinian national poet, to write an impressive speech for him for the occasion. 'Arafat is trying to finalize the release of the Palestinian prisoners from Israel to be able to announce it the day of the declaration.

The team is also examining the possibility of holding mass celebrations in Gaza and the territories on that day and to invite high-ranking guests and television crews from all over the world to attend.

[A report by the Jerusalem political correspondent on page 1 of Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 15 August adds: "It has been learned that 'Arafat promised that if the Palestine National Council — which was never elected, but rather appointed by 'Arafat — fails to approve the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant he will announce the disbandment of the PLO and declare the elected Palestinian council its successor."]

'Arafat Spokesman Hopes for West Bank Authority

MM1408125295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Abu-Rudaynah Stresses That West Bank Will Return, Just Like Gaza"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, media spokesman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has expressed his optimism that Palestinian authority will soon extend to the occupied West Bank. But matters, he says, "still require further negotiations in the framework of the committees in the next two or three weeks."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Abu-Rudaynah said: "The West Bank will return to the Palestinians, just like Gaza. The moment of its return is nearing. We are now engaged in the battle of the final hours."

In his statement Abu-Rudaynah pointed to the U.S. and Egyptian interest in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was briefed on developments during the five-day negotiations in Taba, while Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa contacted us four times.

Abu-Rudaynah stressed that tomorrow 'Arafat will head meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee to brief them on the marathon negotiations he held with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the Egyptian resort of Taba last week. The agreement they reached the day before yesterday vis-a-vis extending the self-rule in the West Bank will also be disussed.

On the agreement, Abu-Rudaynah said: "There is no agreement in the sense of an agreement. We cannot describe what we have reached as an agreement but rather a joint statement." He added: "We cannot say that the two parties are now about to reach a full agreement within two or three weeks."

The Palestinian official went on to say: "No agreement has taken place, because of Israel's failure to comply with the declaration of principles concerning — among other issues — redeployment, since it stipulates that Israel withdraw from all inhabited areas, including cities, villages, and camps."

Abu-Rudaynah said that the "Hebron issue was the object of a big dispute between the two positions, which prevented the signing of an agreement. A Palestinian-Israeli committee has been formed to discuss arrangements for a compromise as a way out of the crisis. It will begin its meetings today or tomorrow."

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On the disagreements over the Hebron issue Abu-Rudaynah said: "The Israelis are demanding that redeployment in Hebron be postponed on the pretext that there are hundreds of settlers in the center of the city. As for the Palestinian position in this connection, it was clear: There will be no agreement without a settlement of the redeployment issue in Hebron. Nor will the Palestinians agree to conduct the elections while the occupation troops are still there."

Abu-Rudaynah added: "We submitted several proposals for a way out of the Hebron crisis, but the Israeli side rejected them. These proposals are: a full Israeli withdrawal from the city, joint patrols in the areas where settlers live, or the return of the international forces deployed in the city in the wake of the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in February 1994 in accordance with UN Resolution 944."

According to Abu-Rudaynah, there is also disagreement over the water issue. While the Palestinians are insisting on obtaining their full rights to the ground water in occupied West Bank, the Israelis are offering a share of this water.

'Arafat Protests Qaddumi's Boycott of Tunis Meetings

JN1508090095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO Executive Committee has continued its meetings in Tunis to discuss the outcome of the talks with Israel.

Yesterday, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, strongly protested the stand of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, who boycotted the PLO Executive Committee meetings.

Abu-Rudaynah Interviewed on Meetings

JN1508065695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Report on interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to 'Arafat, by Yusuf al-Qazzaz in Tunis on 15 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Executive Committee meetings will resume in Tunis today under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat. The committee will discuss the latest developments of negotiations with Israel in light of the results reached in talks between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Rudaynah] Meetings began at 1800 yesterday. The Executive Committee met under the chairmanship of Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], who briefed the committee on the Taba talks and the latest developments of negotiations with the Israeli side. This was followed by a Central Committee meeting, which continued until midnight. The two committees will hold a morning and an evening session today. The discussions were clear and frank with regard to the course of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The meetings were successful and positive and will continue today.

[Al-Qazzaz] Was there a quorum?

[Abu-Rudaynah] Yes, 10 Executive Committee members attended yesterday's meetings. The committee, as I said, will resume its meetings at 0900 today. The president will then meet with the Central Committee members in the evening?

[Al-Qazzaz] How was the atmosphere of the talks? Some say the debate will be heated due to the importance of the issue being discussed.

[Abu-Rudaynah] A positive atmosphere prevailed. All listened to President Abu-'Ammar, who spoke of the latest developments of talks with the Israeli party. He clearly said the Palestinian elections must be held as soon as possible, but be preceded by an Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian cities, including Hebron. He also said there will be no legislative elections under occupation. [end recording]

'Arafat's Reported Remarks on Iraq Denied

JN1508063795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat's advisor Marwan Kanafani has denied in Tunis a 13 August report by AFP citing an alleged 'Arafat statement to the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT on the recent Iraqi developments. Kanafani said that the Israeli newspaper's allegations are not only a violation of the journalistic trust and the profession's code of honor but a link in the series of lies and distortions which we have been used to reading in YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

In a cable he sent to the newspaper, Kanafani demanded that it deny the allegation and apologize for it. He said that he hoped news agencies would ascertain the truth before dissemination of news, especially when forgery is obvious.

Kanafani said that President 'Arafat and his brothers in the PLO and the Palestinian Authority leaderships are busy attending to their responsibilities at this delicate phase in the life of the homeland, and that in pursuance of their nationalist and pan-Arab polices, the leadership

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wishes all the Arab peoples progress, stability, and success to serve the interest of the Arab nation.

Al-Tibi Warns of Bloodshed Over Orient House

TA1408155095 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat, by Rafi Ginat and Tamar Landau; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ginat] Why has Orient House become such a mythical and symbolic institution?

[Al-Tibi] I think that is a good question and should be directed at the Israeli right wing and all those whose aim it is to shut down Orient House. That is what has made it so symbolic. We Palestinians recognized Orient House as the seat of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Conference during the Likud administration.

[Ginat] If it is decided to close Orient House through Jerusalem municipal decrees, what countermeasures will you take?

[Al-Tibi] First, such declarations should be seen for what they are: mere declarations. Orient House will not be closed. If it is closed, that will be the end of the political process.

[Landau] You must realize, however, that Yitzhaq Rabin himself gave Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert the green light to go ahead with the measures against Orient House. Therefore, it is apparently not a mere declaration but a directive from above.

[Al-Tibi] People who make such negative and dangerous decisions about Orient House should read Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' letter to the late Austrian [as heard] foreign minister about the need to maintain the existing Palestinian institutions. The main Palestinian institution in East Jerusalem is Orient House. I believe that the Palestinian who requested such a letter did so on behalf of the Palestinian institutions, including Orient House, which is what Yasir 'Arafat told me personally.

[Landau] Are you saying unequivocally that the political process will cease the moment Orient House is closed? Is there no middle road?

[Al-Tibi] Those who made Orient House their target should deal with much more constructive issues. Orient House activities did not start yesterday or following the Oslo accord. Orient House became the seat of the Palestinian delegation during Yitzhaq Shamir's term under the Likud government, and it was from there that the call for peace talks with the Israeli Government was issued. Therefore, the activity against the site that symbolizes Palestinian policy in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank comes from those who think it will help them in the Likud primaries. It appears that certain Labor members, however, have been infected by that virus, which I very much regret.

[Ginat] Permit me to go one step further: Could the closure of Orient House be accompanied by violent demonstrations and bloodshed?

[Al-Tibi] I do not think it will pass quietly.

[Ginat] What does that mean?

[Al-Tibi] There has been a growing impression lately that Israeli settlers are taking action against Palestinians, while the Palestinians have not reacted. For example, an Arab demonstrator was murdered at Artis. I think acts like that will make the Palestinians react. Their willingness to sit idly by and take punches has run out.

Orient House on Threatened Closure

TA1408155795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Orient House issued a statement today in the wake of the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs concerning the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Orient House statement says these decisions are part of a campaign being waged by extremist elements in the Jerusalem Municipality and several Israeli Government ministries which encourages members of the extreme right to attack innocent Palestinian civilians while enjoying the protection of the Israeli police.

The statement further says that if the Israeli Government has complaints about the establishment of Palestinian Authority [PA] institutions, it should raise them in the Israeli-Palestinian Supreme Liaison Committee rather than taking steps against Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem under the pretext that they belong to the PA.

Al-Husayni To Form Jerusalem Defense Committee

JN1408140095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, has disclosed a plan to set up a central committee for the defense of Jerusalem. He noted that the committee will have various branches in Palestinian cities and Arab and foreign countries. The committee will work out an international framework through embarking on a comprehensive effort that would include all international forums to defend Jerusalem.

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In a meeting organized by the Committee for National Establishments and Activities, al-Husayni added that Israel seeks to put an end to the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem politically, economically, and socially through imposing rigid laws and constraints which also aim to isolate the holy city from the rest of Palestinian cities. Al-Husayni warned against the Israeli policy which seeks to expand settlements in Jerusalem.

Yusuf: 100 Hamas, 40 Jihad Members Remain Armed

TA1408060395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the Palestinian Police, General Nasr Yusuf, said last night only 100 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members remain armed, while in the Islamic Jihad organization only 40 activists still possess their weapons.

Gen. Yusuf said the Palestinian Police could provide security for both Jews and Palestinians on the West Bank.

He spoke to members of the Mashov dovish group in the Labor Party.

Hamas: Taba Agreement Worse than Gaza-Jericho

NC1408193595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Amman, by Mahdi Hasan in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hasan] Mr. Muhammad Nazzal, how do you evaluate the recent Taba agreement on the expansion of self-rule in the West Bank, which was reached by 'Arafat and Shim'on Peres and ratified by the Zionist government? What are the most important consequences of this agreement?

[Nazzal] When one reads the statement issued by the two sides—what was reached cannot be considered an agreement because many things remain unclear and vague—one clearly finds that it adds nothing new to the cause of the Palestinian people. Indeed, it perpetuates the occupation, and it is worse than the Gaza-Jericho accord. Obviously, a large proportion of the occupied Palestinian territory will remain under Israeli occupation.

[Hasan] But Yasir 'Arafat praised the negotiations as historic, suggesting that he made gains in his talks with Peres. How do you explain this?

[Nazzal] It is only natural for 'Arafat to speak about victories, achievements, and heroic acts. But the facts are different. When the Gaza-Jericho accord was completed, we were told that it was the beginning of the Palestinian dream and of the Palestinian state. But then we saw how Gaza became a protector of the occupier, not a Palestinian state. Therefore, I am not surprised to see 'Arafat and his men promoting the agreement as an achievement and a heroic deed. But the facts differ from what is being said in the media. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Interviewed on Abu-Marzuq

JN1208141495 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 6

[Interview with Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by Shakir al-Jawhari; place and date not given — first three paragraphs are AL-HADATH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the United States necessitates the election of a new head for the bureau. The strongest candidate for this post is Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of Hamas. He is a hawk compared to Abu-Marzuq, who has previously proposed a phased plan to resolve the the Palestine question.

In this interview, however, Ghawshah suggests a more flexible attitude toward the United States, saying Hamas does not want to engage in a battle of breaking bones with it. He also says that Hamas will engage in a dialogue with the Islamic Jihad Movement to reach common grounds concerning its threats to strike at U.S. interests. Ghawshah declares that it is essential to find a replacement for Abu-Marzuq if his arrest continues. He also says that Hamas is not pleased with the appointment of the Jewish lawyer Stanley Cohen as defense counsel for the head of its political bureau.

The first question in this long and extensive interview, which was held jointly with al-Shariqah paper AL-SHURUQ, is as follows:

[Al-Jawhari] Please allow me to begin with this unusual question: Did you not feel any embarrassment when you announced that Dr. Abu-Marzuq left for the United States to register his sons in U.S. schools?

[Ghawshah] As Islamists we are accustomed to discussing our affairs openly. We have learned from Islam that an individual is subject to all kinds of situations, but he should always be clear and frank. Thus, it is said the faithful never lies.

Acting in accordance with the saying that the faithful never lies, we say that that as was the case on all

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previous occasions, Dr. Abu-Marzuq and his family did not leave for the United States secretly. He had previously visited the United States in late 1994. Yet, he was not asked anything or interrogated. Dr. Abu-Marzuq had also lived in the southern states of the United States for 14 years. He then he moved to Washington where he obtained his M.A. and Doctorate from American universities. He also worked there, and some of his children were born in the United States and began their studies in American schools.

For your information, Dr. Abu-Marzuq came to Jordan from the United States only in the middle of 1993. He took his children out of American schools, stopped working there, and came to Jordan to admit his children into Jordanian schools.

Also for the record, Dr. Abu-Marzuq had previously resided in Jordan in 1991 following the Gulf crisis. He admitted his children into Jordanian schools for a period of less than one year. But, he and his family were evicted from Jordan at the end of that year. Before coming back to Jordan once again for the purpose of residence in the middle of 1993, the competent authorities in Jordan approved his residence.

Therefore, it was natural after being evicted from Jordan for the second time on last 31 May for Dr. Abu-Marzuq to return to the United States.

Before leaving for the United States, he visited several countries in the region. He tried to settle in one of the Arabian Gulf states, but he could not make it. So, he went to the United States to explore the possibility of returning to that country, especially since he lived there for 14 years, and to also study the possibility of re-admitting his children into American schools.

Naturally, a student who had started his education in English in American schools was bound to find it difficult to continue his studies in Arabic. This was the case with Dr. Abu-Marzuq's children, who no sooner had they begun understanding Arabic than they were whisked away once again.

So, we believe that there is no need to put an exclamation mark on the question of Abu-Marzuq's trip to the United States which, as we said, was for the purpose of exploring the possibility of re-admitting his children into American schools. This question must be viewed from its humane practical aspect, and it should not constitute any blemish.

[Al-Jawhari] Was Dr. Abu-Marzuq holding an Egyptian travel document for Palestinian refugees when he obtained an American "Green Card?"

[Ghawshah] He held an Egyptian document, and I assume that he entered the United States with that document.

[Al-Jawhari] This means that he left the United States in 1993 with the same document?

[Ghawshah] I cannot give you a precise answer, but he and his wife had obtained a "Green Card" which gives the holder the right to reside and work.

The "Green Card" holder is tantamount to a U.S. citizen with the right to vote in congressional and presidential elections. The "Green Card" holder can also obtain U.S. citizenship and an American passport. Incidentally, two of Dr. Abu-Marzuq's children hold U.S. citizenship as they were both born in the United States.

[Al-Jawhari] Has Dr. Abu-Marzuq ever complained about the Egyptian authorities refusing or hesitating to renew his Egyptian travel document?

[Ghawshah] I have no knowledge of that. But he used to go to Egypt to visit his relatives in Rafah, which is very close to the Egyptian border. His relatives used to come out and meet with him on Egyptian territory. He went to Egypt from time to time to meet with his brother Brigadier General Mahmud Abu-Marzuq, who is presently the director of civil defense in Gaza.

[Al-Jawhari] Since when has Dr. Abu-Marzuq been the head of the Political Bureau of Hamas Movement?

[Ghawshah] For some time now. These are topics which we do not discuss. We do not talk about the movement's structure. Some time ago, the Jews claimed that they had information about the movement's structure.

[Al-Jawhari] Was he head of the Political Bureau when he was a resident of the United States?

[Ghawshah] Again, I will not answer this question. I will not answer questions of an interrogative nature.

[Al-Jawhari] This way, you are slamming the door on us. I would like to ask again: Why was the head of the Political Bureau chosen from those who reside in the United States?

[Ghawshah] This question had not occurred to us.

[Al-Jawhari] If Dr. Abu-Marzuq had left the United States while he was head of the Political Bureau and returned to it while he was still head of the Political Bureau, why has the United States changed its attitude toward him?

[Ghawshah] I will not answer questions on organizational matters, and I will not give any dates. This is outside my jurisdiction. I say that for some time now

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Dr. Abu-Marzuq has been active in the United States on the Palestinian and Islamic levels. But all his activities are within the law. Had any of his activities conflicted with the American law, he would have been interrogated. But he was not interrogated throughout the 14 years of his residence in America.

Indeed, why has the United States changed its attitude? Was his trip to America in 1994 a trap, which was why his name was quietly slipped several months later into the list of persons who are banned entry into U.S. territory? Was this in response to Jewish pressure? Has the approach dates of U.S. presidential elections and Zionist parliamentary elections made some decision makers in the U.S. Administration present Dr. Abu-Marzuq as an election chip in favor of Yitzhaq Rabin and the Labor Party so that Rabin would appear before the opposition parties in the Jewish community as one who had made a big achievement by announcing that the head of Hamas Movement is now in his possession? Was it the Ameicans who made this decision?

[Al-Jawhari] This analysis makes us conclude that Dr. Abu-Marzuq would eventually be delivered to the Jewish state?

[Ghawshah] There is another assumption. Was it the Jewish lobby which implicated the U.S. Administration in the arrest of Dr. Abu-Marzuq and that the U.S. Administration is now studying the situation? Would it continue in this direction and deliver Dr. Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist entity or take into consideration the implications of the situation and the widening circle of denunciation which is felt by American embassies in different countries of the world, and thus rectify its stand and release him? These are the two options now.

[Al-Jawhari] You say that Dr. Abu-Marzuq had left for the United States to study the possibility of returning and working there again. Was this decision taken privately or through consultation with the movement's leadership?

[Ghawshah] Since the issue has not yet been raised, and we know that he had left for the United States to see if conditions would be suitable, there was no need for him to notify the movement's leadership. His arrest has now shown that the conditions are not suitable at all.

[Al-Jawhari] For Dr. Abu-Marzuq to go to the United States to see if conditions are suitable means that the head of the Political Bureau of the Hamas Movement can reside in the United States. Now, how can he carry out his responsibilities from there?

[Ghawshah] This is a hypothetical question, since conditions have not enabled him to reside in the United States in his capacity as head of the Political Bureau. I will not answer a hypothetical question.

[Al-Jawhari] Such a question presumes one of two possibilities: either Dr. Abu-Marzuq would resign as head of the Political Bureau as soon he becomes a resident of the United States, or his residence in the United States would serve as an opening for relations with the United States?

[Ghawshah] The second part of the question evokes suspicions and queries. The movement's reality and dialogue with the U.S. Administration are open to the people. There are no secret channels at all.

Dialogue was held twice only with the U.S. Administration. On both occasions, the matter dealt with the issue of the deportees in late 1992 and early 1993.

No other dialogues were held before or after these two occasions. Therefore, the assumption that Dr. Abu-Marzuq had left for the United Stats with the view to holding a dialogue with the U.S. Administration is baseless.

However, the first theory is correct. Hamas leaders within the territory, such as Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, and others can no longer, from the practical viewpoint, carry out their daily work. The same will apply to Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq. If his arrest continues, the movement will have to make a decision to chose another leader so his detention will not create a vacuum.

I believe that many revolutionary movements in the world have gone through such circumstances.

For example, France abducted the five leaders of the Algerian Revolution, but the revolution produced new leaders and continued its course until final victory.

This does not mean that there is no contact and coordination. Contact and coordination continue whenever possible with Hamas leaders in Zionist prisons and in the prisons of the Palestinian Authority.

[Al-Jawhari] But, you have not chosen another guardian or authority to replace Shaykh Ahmad Yasin?

[Ghawshah] No doubt, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin remains the founder and spiritual and moral authority of the movement, but is it he who organizes and supervises the movement's work? No. Like any other leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin expresses his viewpoint and offers advice to the leadership outside.

From the Islamic viewpoint, when a person is imprisoned, he no loner possesses his full freedom. Therefore, he cannot from the legal and shari'a aspect remain a

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decision maker, because he is bound to be affected by the conditions he is in.

Therefore, throughout Islamic history, whenever Muslim leaders were arrested, their responsibilities were terminated and new leaders were elected.

[Al-Jawhari] You told me in another interview that Hamas does not want to engage in a battle of breaking bones with the United States. You also said in a recent statement that you have never attacked U.S. interests in the region or directed any clear threat that you would react violently against these interests if Abu-Marzuq is delivered to Israel. You simply hinted at that, contrary to the position of the Islamic Jihad Movement which threatened in this case to transfer the battle outside Palestine.

All this indicates that you are not against any future dialogue with the United States; that is, if such a dialogue is not already in progress now through undeclared channels.

[Ghawshah] I would like to begin by answering the last part of the question. First, there is no dialogue now with the United States. And, I already told you that the dialogue ended early 1993.

Let me be more clear. All the contacts which had taken place with western states were not dialogues, but meetings during which they posed questions and tried to understand the movement's policy, especially concerning the so-called political settlement. Dialogue in the sense of dialogue has not taken place.

Regarding U.S. interests, no statement has been made by Hamas or its official spokesman threatening to strike at these interests. However, our statements have contained a warning to the U.S. Administration that the continued detention of Musa Abu-Marzuq for a long period — worse than that, his delivery to the Jews — will arouse the masses of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations against it. This is what we said.

Regarding the threats against the United States, we have not made any threats of this kind. Hamas is an objective movement, in the sense that it cannot henceforth deal with hypothetical or futuristic issues before knowing exactly all the details of these issues. Any opinion which does not depend on actual data and effects will not be mature. Thus, as the Arab saying goes: We will only cross the bridges when we come to them. We affirm that when the United States detains Musa Abu-Marzuq or delivers him to the Jews, the Hamas Movement will study the situation and determine its position.

This is the position which the movement maintains and expresses as its policy.

[Al-Jawhari] You say that you only answered questions, but did not hold a dialogue with the westerners, including the Americans?

[Ghawshah] They posed questions and we answered them. They also tried to understand the movement's position. But a dialogue in the sense of a dialogue — such as recognizing Hamas Movement as one of the main forces of the Palestinian people — did not take place. It was clear that they were against that. They generally believed that their interests must be associated with, and can only be fulfilled by, the PLO and the Palestinian Authority.

[Al-Jawhari] You must have had a reason to answer the questions of the westerners. The reason, as it is so obvious from your previous answer, is that you want them to recognize you as a major force in the Palestinian arena. Were there any other reasons?

[Ghawshah] We as a movement consider any meeting with the representatives of western states as a kind of actual and practical recognition, even if it is not an official recognition. Therefore, this is a gain for the movement which bolsters its international status and weight and helps to expand it further. This is welcomed by any organization, not just Hamas. But I should also say that we will not be deceived by the approaches of western circles. Most western circles are U.S. satellites and the United States is strongly influenced by Zionism. It is understood that the Jews and the Zionists have reached the peak of their strength and influence in the region. We should strive to overcome this phase by holding firmly to our stands and principles until U.S.-Zionist power and influence gradually begin to decline.

[Al-Jawhari] Hamas' pragmatism is confirmed by the fact that Dr. Musa Abu Marzuq and his wife, Rima, have chosen a Jewish lawyer called Stanley Cohen to be their defense counsel. This question calls for an explanation?

[Ghawshah] Let me explain the movement's position on this point. The movement is not pleased with the appointment of this lawyer, because it conflicts with the movement's declared policies.

It seems that there has been a rush. Certain Islamic or Arab sides in the United States have rushed matters and advised the wife of Dr. Marzuq to appoint this Jewish lawyer. The movement is trying to appoint other lawyers as soon as possible to replace the present lawyer.

[Al-Jawhari] Have you asked his wife to change the Jewish lawyer?

[Ghawshah] We will take the measures.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you believe that Cohen has disposed himself honorably as a lawyer or not?

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[Ghawshah] I cannot make any judgment now. I just wanted to convey to you the position that the movement is not comfortable with him.

[Al-Jawhari] Not comfortable only, or also not pleased with his appointment in the first place, being a Jew.

[Ghawshah] Not comfortable and not pleased.

[Al-Jawhari] Is he the only lawyer in charge of the case now, or are there other lawyers working with him?

[Ghawshah] He is the only lawyer now. Incidentally, I have learned that the name of advocate 'Abidin Jbarah was suggested first, but he declined.

[Al-Jawhari] Why?

[Ghawshah] He said it was not in his interest to take over the Musa Abu-Marzuq case since he is already handling the case of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. He did not want the case of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman to prejudice the case of Abu-Marzuq. I believe that matters were then rushed by appointing Stanley Cohen.

[Al-Jawhari] On what basis did they choose Cohen?

[Ghawshah] I believe on the basis of U.S. standards, which say that the best lawyers in New York are Jews. This was how Cohen was chosen. They believed that the important thing was to have a clever lawyer, even if a Jew. They did not take into consideration that we in the Hamas Movement, which is an Islamic movement, are careful that our standards should be correct and harmonious with our principles.

[Al-Jawhari] They probably did that on purpose to reverse U.S. standards, in the sense that when Abu-Marzuq's lawyer is a Jew, he cannot possibly be considered a terrorist.

[Ghawshah] This could be one of the points considered by whoever made the decision. But I, personally, and perhaps all of us in the movement, do not believe in that from our own experience of Jewish plans. A Jew is always loyal to his Jewishness and state.

[Al-Jawhari] But it is clear that Dr. Abu-Marzuq, who must have met with his Jewish lawyer, differs with this viewpoint, otherwise he would not have allowed Cohen to continue defending him?

[Ghawshah] I conveyed to you the movement's viewpoint. The movement is not pleased with the appointment of Cohen.

There is no way of putting such a question to Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq now and find out his opinion. We must take into consideration the circumstances of the detainee or prisoner, who could be under such psychological pressures that his sole concern is to be released. However, Dr. Abu-Marzuq has not made any statement so far.

[Al-Jawhari] The purpose of Dr. Abu-Marzuq's recent trip to the United States was to study the possibility of renewing his residence there. Such a study could not take place without contacting American officials to find out their opinions as well as the position of the U.S. Administration?

[Ghawshah] This is what some of the media said. But, according to the information I have I do not believe that Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq had contacted any U.S. official department before leaving for the United States.

[Al-Jawhari] But he must have inquired after his entry?

[Ghawshah] He went in an ordinary manner, the way he did seven months ago. His identity papers are sound and legal. But the surprise was when his name was included on the undeclared list of persons who are banned entry into the United States.

[Al-Jawhari] The fact that Abu-Marzuq went to the United States without seeking the prior opinion of the U.S. Administration, basing his decision on the fact that he entered the United States seven months ago, means that he was convinced that he would be accepted in the United States?

[Ghawshah] This is not so. You cannot say that there was an American acceptance. He was a legal resident of the United States, and there was nothing to make the U.S. Administration bar him, since he did not violate the law.

[Al-Jawhari] But he is not just any person on whom the law could be applied automatically.

[Ghawshah] Where are the human rights, democracy, and freedom, even if his viewpoint had differed with that of the U.S. Administration?

[Al-Jawhari] Have you ever believed such slogans?

[Ghawshah] America capitalizes on these slogans.

[Al-Jawhari] So, you know that it capitalizes on them?

[Ghawshah] It seems that Dr. Musa was confident during his recent trip that nothing would happen to him, as was the case in his previous visit.

[Al-Jawhari] Why did he go several times; was it because he has business in the United States?

[Ghawshah] Yes, he has business; he has work. He lived there for 14 years and he has interests in the United States.

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Hamas Warns PA on 'Campaign' Against Mosques

JN1308172495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement on the continuation by 'Arafat's organizations of their suspicious campaign against houses of God in Gaza Strip. Not a single day passes without a group from these organizations launching a series of violations of the sanctity of mosques, terrorizing the worshipers, and destroying the properties of these mosques in a manner similar to the practices of the hated Israeli occupation.

The statement said Hamas warns of the dangers of continuing the aggressions against, and desecrating of the mosques, and reminds the Palestinian Authority [PA] of the failed attempts by the Zionist enemy to isolate the mosques and silence the rightful voices in them.

Islamic National Path Movement Issues Manifesto

JN1308171195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] The birth of the Islamic National Path Movement [harakat al-masar al-watani al-islami] was announced in Gaza today. This came at a press conference held by the movement's general commissioner [al-mufawwad al-'amm] Mahmud Abu-Dan and its five founders at the headquarters of the Arab Journalists Association. In its manifesto read by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hur, one of the founders, the movement said that Jerusalem is the eternal and historical capital of the Palestinian state.

The first Islamic movement to emerge under the Palestinian Authority said that the Palestinian people are indivisible and that the Palestinian blood is a sacred red line that cannot be crossed. The manifesto added: The Palestinian-Israeli agreement has now become a reality that cannot be ignored or jumped over, despite the movement's reservations over a number of points in the agreement. The statement stressed the movement's rejection of violence as a means to bring about change. The movement called for a constructive, civilized, and national dialogue as a means of convergence, national unity, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

The movement called for the abolition of Israeli settlements, which it considered an alien and cancerous body, in order to achieve peace and stability. It called on all human rights institutions to intervene quickly and immediately to release all Palestinian prisoners from the Israeli occupation prisons.

Abu-Dan, the movement's general commissioner, said his movement was launched in accordance with the Palestinian Authority law. He pointed out that there are others who share the same convictions.

The movement believes that the Palestinian state should be established on any liberated area. it calls on national and Islamic forces here to respect the law and practice democracy for the sake of building the homeland.

Movement Splits From Hamas

NC1308143795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 13 Aug (MENA)—The establishment of a new political movement was declared today. "The Islamic National March Movement" [harkat al-masar al-watani al-islami], has separated from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The statement released by the movement and announced at a news conference today says that it considers the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement to be an established fact that cannot be ignored despite its reservations about numerous points in the agreement. The movement's founding statement emphasizes its absolute rejection of violence as a means of change. It calls for constructive dialogue as a way to achieve national unity and agreement. It also stresses the need to abolish the settlements so that social peace, security, and stability can be established.

The statement also stresses that the movement will work to make the Islamic shari'ah the constitution of the Palestinian state. It notes that the movement stands by all POW's and detainees, supports their just cause, and calls for their release as quickly as possible. It calls on all national and Islamic forces in the Palestinian arena to respect the law, democratic practice, and freedom of opinion. It declared that the movement's leadership includes Mahmud Abu-Dan, Shakir Hammad, Jabir Qassas, Na'im al- Ghul, and others who used to belong to Hamas but dissent with it.

The Palestinian Authority [PA] welcomed the new Islamic movement, considering it to be a healthy sign. A PA spokesman said that any Islamic group has a right to establish a party and that the PA deals with all Palestinian parties objectively and without discrimination.

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PFLP-GC Denounces 'Zionist' Air Raids

JN1408200095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Statement by a PFLP-GC military spokesman on the "Zionist" air raids; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] positions in the al-Na'imah area have been targeted by new raids by the Zionist warplanes, only days after the Zionist warplanes raided PFLP-GC positions in the Lebanese al-Biqa' region. The raids were carried out at 1315 today, 14 August 1995. Zionist warplanes launched over 14 raids targeting previously evacuated PFLP-GC positions, in addition to some social and humanitarian centers. The raids continued until 1430. Up to the moment this statement was released, enemy aircraft were continuing to overfly the region, while naval units were roaming coastal areas.

The PFLP-GC spokesman said: The intensification of Zionist attacks against the front are part of the current large-scale campaign to weaken and paralyze our capabilities and abort our militant plans after the failure of all plots concocted against us. After the PFLP-GC security managed to capture an espionage network that attempted to harm PFLP-GC security and its relations with several Arab parties, and after the dimensions of the suspect campaign led by the Zionist and 'Arafatist intelligence services to blemish the front's reputation and leaders were exposed to the public opinion, the enemy is now trying through air raids to achieve what it has failed to achieve through other means. We in the PFLP-GC believe that these raids are part of the concerted Zionist-'Arafatist war against whoever rejects capitulation and submission to the treasonous agreements, the latest of which was the Taba agreement, which falls within the framework of the humiliating Oslo course. We declare that the will of our mujahidin and the path of armed struggle will continue to reflect our people's aspirations and objectives. The invaders and conspirators will not succeed in harming our front's steadfastness and our people's determination to continue their struggle until the liberation of the land and man.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Announces Casualties From Raids

JN1408195795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC] has said that the causalities resulting from the 14 raids mounted by the Zionist enemy's Air Force with U.S.-made planes this afternoon are as follows: Three social workers were injured and a nurse was slightly injured. An ambulance, belonging to the clinic and carrying the insignias of the crescent and cross, was damaged as a result of the 14 raids.

Israeli Military Blamed for Death of Palestinian

JN1408115795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Tunis today where he will preside over the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee, which will begin today.

President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Tunis this morning. Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, has said that the PLO Executive Committee will discuss the latest developments in the peace process and the negotiations, especially the results of the negotiations between the Palestinian side, under President 'Arafat, and the Israeli side, under Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in Taba last week, and the joint statement they reached. The PLO Executive Committee is the party that represents all the Palestinian people and which reached an agreement with Israel under the current critical circumstances for the Palestine question.

The president's spokesman said the meetings, which will last for two days, are part of the periodic meetings of the PLO Executive Committee to discuss recent issues. Kanafani added that the Fatah Central Committee will hold a meeting to assess the situation and discuss developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and the peace process.

In another development, Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, minister of youth and sports, has held the Israeli military leaders responsible for yesterday's martyrdom of Khayr 'Abd-al-Hafiz, asserting that 'Abd- al-Hafiz was killed in cold blood and that the settler who killed him opened fire on him while 'Abd-al-Hafiz posed no threat to any Israeli party. This happened under the very gaze of the Israeli Army. This gives a green light to the settlers to go further in their actions. Dr. al-Shu'aybi added that if the Israeli Army is unable to put an end to the practices of the settlers, then it should declare this. He said the Palestinian people are prepared to confront those settlers without weapons, even if there is a large number of victims. He pointed out that the settlers' move to obstruct the agreement is supported by some Israeli military agencies, saying that the encouragement the settlers are receiving will harm the Palestinian people and will

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confuse the Israeli Government. Al-Shu'aybi said the settlers should not be allowed to wander around with their weapons. He said the Israeli Army is not treating the settlers the way it treated our people when they used to express their opinions and protest without carrying arms.

First Batch of Policemen Arrive From Algeria

JN1508072195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 170 Palestinian policemen arrived in Gaza from Algeria at dawn today. Another batch of Palestinian policemen will arrive from Algeria next week.

The return of the Palestinian policemen to the homeland is in preparation for the extension of the Palestinian National Authority's control over the remainder of the West Bank.

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Algeria

Zeroual Consults With Opposition on Elections

LD1408205995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual, who is continuing consultations regarding the presidential elections, received the leaders of three political parties on 14 August: Mahfoud Nahna, leader of the Hamas Movement; Ahmed Khelil, leader of the Social Liberal Party; and Abdelkader Merbah, leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development

As he was leaving the audience, Abdelkader Merbah commented on the talks.

[Begin Merbah recording] This was a meeting between the leaders of the country and the opposition. It is a gesture of goodwill and is proof that things are changing because the opposition is taking part in the decisionmaking process and in the future of the country.

I think the presidential elections scheduled for the Algerian people are a historic opportunity that will never happen again. This is why we must take advantage of them so that people can decide, so that there can be a real change, a change which will give freedom and dignity to the Algerian people. [end recording]

For Mahfoud Nahna the setting up of the election monitoring commission is of the utmost importance for the success of the elections. [passage omitted]

Murders Highlight One of 'Bloodiest Weeks'

Berber Singer Killed

LD1308144395 Paris LCI Television in French 1300 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There has been another killing in Algeria. A Berber singer, Lila Amara, and her husband were killed on the night of 11-12 August by an armed group. She is the third singer to be murdered in the past year, after Rachid and Cheb Hasni. Other killings have taken place in the past 48 hours in Algeria and the death toll from these attacks has climbed to 10 in all. Michel Scott reports:

[Scott] Lila Amara was a nationally-known Berber singer in Algeria. She was murdered in her car, along with her husband, in Tixeraine on the night of 11-12 August, by a commando group of seven or eight men. [passage omitted]

Lila Amara's death is yet another reminder by the armed groups of their concept of Islam wherein music is illicit. Above all, these murders highlight one of the bloodiest weeks that Algeria has experienced for a long time. Friday night [11 August], in Bouinan, a family of five was massacred because one of its members refused to collaborate with the Islamists. Two days before that, a wedding in Oran ended in a bloodbath in which three people were killed by a commando group. Yesterday, two car bombs exploded injuring 18 people. Since the beginning of July, 20 people in all have died in attacks by Islamists.

However, the security forces have not been inactive: At least 60 armed rebels have been killed in the past fortnight.

Family of Five Murdered

LD1308094595 Paris LCI Television in French 0900 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A family of five has been massacred, it was learned today. The daily newspaper LIBERTE reported the news. Killers using a submachine gun massacred the five, near the capital Algiers, because one of the family members refused to collaborate with armed groups of Islamists [groupes armes islamistes].

Car Bomb Injures 12; Journalist's Body Found

LD1208181895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A car bomb exploded today near the the post office in Souidania in the district of Douera, Tipaza Province, injuring 12 people, including three children, who were slightly wounded.

According to a statement by the security services, the explosion partially damaged the post office, a school hall, some shops, and three privately owned vehicles.

The statement explained that the vehicle used in the explosion was a stolen Renault Clio.

Another statement by the security services said that on 2 August, the security forces discovered a body in El Soueh, in the Sahaoula area. It was established that the name of the victim was Naima Hamouda, a journalist for the AFRICAN REVOLUTION magazine.

Security Services Report 26 'Terrorists' Killed

LD1208190695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the security services says that the security forces have liquidated 26 terrorists in various operations in Laghouat, Ain Defla, Algiers, Mostaganem, Batna, Sidi Bel Abbes, Mascara, Chlef Oum El Bouaghi, Blida, Boumerdas, and Tipaza. The source adds that during the security forces' operations, automatic and semi-automatic

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weapons, bombs, trucks, stolen cars, and various types of ammunition were seized.

Egypt

British Armed Forces Minister Pays Visit

Musa, Soames View U.S. Bosnia Plan

NC1408205695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said after a meeting with Nicholas Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, that he explained to the minister the Arab position on the Bosnian developments. He stressed the need to respect the peace plan that has been accepted by the Bosnian Government and to reach a political settlement acceptable to all sides, including the Bosnian Government, which must not be pressured but assisted.

He said Mr. Soames explained the U.S. plan, which is based on reaching a cease-fire and then implementing the peace plan.

Musa stressed that Egypt supports this plan, as explained by the British minister, provided that the Bosnian Government approves it. He stressed the importance of the U.S. peace plan meeting two conditions: First, a meeting must be held of the Islamic and international contact groups must meet so that the Europeans can learn the stance of the Islamic states and the Islamic states can learn the European stance. Second, the peace plan as accepted by the Bosnian Government must be respected.

If this fails to happen, Musa said, the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government must be lifted. He noted that efforts are currently under way to prepare a climate for peace. [passage omitted]

Soames Notes Bosnia Developments

NC1408204395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will receive an important message on the situation in Bosnia from British Prime Minister John Major tomorrow. He will receive the message during his reception of Arthur Nicholas Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. Stating this at a news conference at the British Embassy in Cairo this evening, Soames emphasized his country's interest in a solution to the Bosnian problem. He noted that he is currently touring a number of Arab countries, notably Egypt, which is considered to be a major and central country in the region, to learn the views of these countries on the situation in Bosnia and to brief them on Britain's views on this issue.

Nicholas Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, stressed his country's support for most of the provisions of the U.S. plan on Bosnia. He said that this plan will open the way for a political solution on the basis of the map drawn up by the International Contact Group. He said that this group will meet several times to work out a solution.

General Michael Warthon [name as transliterated], commander of the British Royal Air Force, who is accompanying the British minister, said that the future Bosnian state will be approximately 49 to 51 percent of its original size. He noted that the eastern Bosnia areas are considered lost. He said that some of these areas, which were considered UN safe areas, were captured by the Bosnian Serbs when they overran the Srebrenica and Zepa areas on 11 and 27 July.

Soames considers that Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's statement that Bosnia will not give up Gorazde in east Bosnia is negotiable. He stressed that what is happening in Bosnia is a civil war, adding that "in all wars, parties must give and take to reach a solution."

Soames defended Britain's stance on the Bosnian problem, noting that Britain was one of the first countries to send forces to that region and it has lost many soldiers there. He praised Jordan and Egypt for sending peacekeeping forces to Bosnia. He said that all the countries that sent forces to that region face the same problems because those forces were sent on a peacekeeping mission and were not prepared to fight.

Discussing British-Egyptian relations, Soames said that they are excellent on the political, military, and economic levels. He pointed out that he had held important talks today with Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production. He lauded the joint exercises conducted between the two countries within the framework of Operation Bright Star.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1845 GMT on 14 August adds: "This evening Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Arthur Nicholas Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in Bosnia. Soames explained his country's views on this problem. They exchanged views on the Bosnian problem, as Egypt is a member of the Islamic Liaison Committee on Bosnia and Britain is a member of the International Contact Group and both countries are participating in the peacekeeping forces in Bosnia."]

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Soames Views Hasan's Defection

NC1408205895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Arthur Nicholas Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, cited the defection to Jordan of Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi minister of industry, as cogent proof that Saddam Husayn's regime is living its final days in Iraq.

The British minister of state said in a news conference this evening at the British Embassy in Cairo that during his visit to Jordan yesterday he did not meet with Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan. He and his delegation heard a detailed analysis from Jordanian officials about the situation in Iraq and the defection of the Iraqi official and his entourage to Jordan.

Answering a question on the current situation in Iraq, he said that it might be premature to talk about the fall of the Saddam Husayn regime, but that it is clear the Iraqi regime's days are numbered.

Answering another question on whether it is possible to have Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil as an alternative to Saddam Husayn in Iraq, he said that this cannot be known at the current time because nobody can prophesy what the situation in Iraq will be like.

Mubarak Receives Soames

NC1508091995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 15 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received Nicholas Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces and envoy of British Prime Minister John Major. The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; the British ambassador in Cairo, commander of the British Royal Air Force, and under secretary of the British Ministry of the Commonwealth.

Soames arrived in Cairo yesterday carrying a message to President Mubarak from Major on the situation in Bosnia. The visit is part of the British official's tour of a number of Arab countries, chief among them Egypt, which is a pivotal country in the region.

Musa Views Ethiopia, Israeli 1956 Incident

NC1408151395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has asserted Egypt's gratitude to the Ethiopian Government for its efforts in pursuing investigations regarding the nefarious attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa. The foreign minister said in a statement today that Egypt is in contact with the Ethiopian Government to follow up on the results of the investigations and that these contacts will continue.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made a statement on the revelation in Israel regarding the fact that some Israeli commanders killed a number of Egyptian prisoners during the 1956 war. He said: The Foreign Ministry is holding official contacts with the Israeli authorities on this matter. The objective of these contacts is to assign responsibility for these crimes and to clarify this issue.

Rabin's 'Greater Israel' Remarks Criticized

NC1508075395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper denounces Israeli Prime Ministers Yitzhaq Rabin's statements that were recently published in THE JERUSALEM POST. In his statements, Rabin said Israel will keep its commitments by retaining full control of the Jordan Valley and of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He also said his country will not return to the pre-1967 borders.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says: We have had enough of Israel's repeated demands and sick insistence, we no longer need to remind the Israeli Government of the firm Arab rights that UN resolutions have always acknowledged.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also refers to Rabin's remarks to the same paper on the collapse of the delusion of Greater Israel. The paper notes that if we believed Rabin, this would constitute a great success. These remarks, AL-JUMHURIYAH adds, may have been the result of events surrounding the emergence of a new era, an era in which the super power opposing the United States has collapsed and thus the United States is forced to reduce the importance it has been attaching to Israel.

The paper, however, voices its surprise at Rabin's remark that Israel does not wish to rule another people. The paper asks: What about the land on which Israel is now located, is this an Arab or Israeli land?

Al-Alfi, Gambian Vice President Discuss Relations

NC1408204195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi met today with Edward Singhateh, Gambian minister of national defense and vice president, and his delegation who are currently visiting Cairo.

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During the meeting, they reviewed various aspects of cooperation between the interior ministries of the two countries and ways to bolster cooperation between them in the various fields pertaining to police activities.

Mr. al-Alfi spoke during the meeting about the importance of bolstering international cooperation and exchanging information among the police departments of fraternal African countries to confront counterfeiting, forgery, drug smuggling, and all kinds of violence and terrorism.

He affirmed the Egyptian Interior Ministry's willingness to help the Gambian police meet their training needs, as well as preparing the technical police cadres to combat all kinds of crime.

Christian-Muslim 'Quarrel' Leaves 6 Dead

NC1508051595 Paris AFP in English 1009 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 14 (AFP)—A quarrel between a Christian and a Moslem family left six people dead and 16 injured in northern Egypt, the interior ministry said on Monday [14 August].

The dispute began on Sunday in Dimyana village, 158 kilometers (100 miles) north of Cairo, when a Moslem truck driver, Al-Shahhat Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Nabi, began arguing with a Christian doctor, 'Ata Sabit al-Sa'idi, over the price of transporting cattle.

Both men's families joined the argument, as did villagers, and it degenerated into a free-for-all with gunshots fired. The victims were from the two families, the ministry statement said.

Interior Ministry Denies Report

NC1508061495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—An Interior Ministry responsible security source this evening denied a foreign news agency report that said six people were killed and 18 were wounded in a clash that broke out in the village of Dimyan, al-Daqahliyah Governorate, last night when a Christian girl converted to Islam.

The responsible security source stressed that the report is completely baseless. The source said what really happened is that a brawl erupted the evening of 13 August between a truck driver and cattle merchants over the price of transporting cattle. Fighting broke out between the two sides; several citizens were also involved. Gunfire resulted in seven deaths and 18 wounded. The Interior Ministry's information office issued a statement on the incident in due time.

The Interior Ministry urged media representatives to verify the authenticity of the reports before they publish them and to contact the Interior Ministry's information office for verification purposes so that the ministry would not be compelled to refute the reports later.

Brotherhood Deputy Guide on Bosnia, Activities

NC1108205095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 5

[Article by Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood: "To God We Complain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yes, we complain to God about this bitter and painful situation the Muslims are experiencing everywhere. We do not complain to an individual or to an international or judicial organization. We have lost hope in most of them. Lying, hypocrisy, fallacy, and deceit have increased while candor, righteousness, and fairness have become scarce.

We complain to God because he is a just ruler. He knows everything and he supports the oppressed and humiliates the arrogant. He gives the oppressed his rights and punishes the oppressor. He spares an oppressor for a while and then punishes him.

We complain to God about what is taking place in Bosnia in terms of the ugliest atrocities mankind has ever seen. These atrocities include killing, the cutting off of limbs, mutilation of bodies, rape of women, displacement of people, starvation and torture, and other acts the pen cannot describe and that break the heart.

We complain to God about the actions of these pigs and those who support them and who deceive the Muslims with sweet words, but who are aligned in favor of the Serbs. The international organizations insist on maintaining an arms embargo on the Muslims, who are defending themselves at a time when aid of all kinds is being given to the Serbs without embarrassment, including what al-Qadhdhafi— friend of the Serbs and enemy of the Muslims—is giving them, such as fuel oil to run their tanks and planes.

We also complain to God about the defeatist and negative attitude of the Islamic states throughout the years of the war, although this hot issue concerns all Muslims. Most of the rulers of our Islamic countries have been busy with the border and other disputes bequeathed by imperialism and with the wars spurred on by the enemies, such as the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Efforts are still being exerted to remove the consequences of these disputes and wars.

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Our states have also been busy with the pseudopeace with the Zionist enemy and with the harmful normalization with this enemy. This is a humiliating surrender to the arrogant enemy and to its arch supporter, the United States.

Let all these Serbs, Zionists, and their supporters know that God is lying in wait for them. Let their material strength not deceive them. God is stronger and mightier than them and has soldiers in heaven and on earth. He took revenge on those who were stronger than them. Where are Pharaoh, Croesus, Haman, 'Ad, and Thamud? Where are Hitler, Mussolini, Lenin, and Stalin? God Almighty said: "Say to those who reject faith: Soon will ye be vanquished and gathered together to Hell—an evil bed indeed to lie on!" "And thou wilt see the sinners that day bound together in fetters; their garments of liquid pitch, and their faces covered with fire." "With it will be scalded what is within their bodies, as well as their skins." [Koranic verses]

O Muslims in Bosnia. Be patient for God will help you. You must know that your patience and steadfastness against the criminal Serbs has done a great service to Islam and Muslims. It has awakened millions of Muslims who have begun to move, feel your pain, and ask their governments to adopt a positive stand in your support. This awakening you have caused will have a beneficial effect on Muslims, God willing. You must know that your dead are in paradise and their dead are in hell. Be patient, persevere, and do not despair. We hope the Organization of Islamic Conference will take positive steps in your support.

The Muslim Brotherhood's call has lasted almost 70 years. It was started by Imam al-Banna in response to an order from God and the teachings of Islam, which impose on each Muslim man and woman adherence to the teachings of Islam and the performance of the requirements of Islam, particularly at this sensitive stage for the Islamic nation, where the enemies are ruling the Muslims and controlling their sanctities. The Muslims are one nation, nay, one body. Whoever is not interested in the Muslims' causes does not belong to them. The Brotherhood's method of action followed the ways of the prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, such as calling on God to provide wisdom and good counsel, entrenching belief in souls, promoting love and brotherhood among the Muslims, and following up the conditions of Muslims everywhere. As soon as the Brotherhood supported its brothers in Palestine against the Zionist gangs, the enemies and agents turned against them. The first crisis took place and Imam al-Banna was killed. Imam al-Banna reared us on patience and perseverance, as well as on doing good deeds unto others. From among his sayings is this one: "Behave with other people like trees; people throw stones at them but trees reply by bearing fruit." We warned that we will be exposed to crises and catastrophes because this is God's way in his call. But he noted that there are reasons for success before which there can be no obstacle. This is nobility of objective, the world's need for our call, and God's support for us. He has instructed us to be patient and resolute as was his prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him, who advised Al Yasir: "Be patient o Al Yasir; your date is in heaven." He did not react to their oppression by violence and force, but delivered tidings to the Muslims that God will finalize this issue so that the passenger traveling from Sanaa to Hadhramaut need fear only God and the wolf that might attack his sheep. But you are being hasty.

The Muslim Brothers are a peaceful people who love their homeland and who offer every good thing they can to citizens. They comfort and help the poor and treat the sick. During the earthquake and the floods, they offered the afflicted people aid. But this angered officials, who issued a military order banning the humanitarian aid committee from gathering contributions. It was helping the Muslims in Bosnia, something that raised Egypt's head high in that country. President Izetbegovic praised this move. Then they went so far as to accuse the members of the committee of terrorism and arrest them. Instead of helping the Muslims there, they have prevented the committee from performing its duties. We hope the government will release these youths and allow them to perform this duty during these difficult times Bosnia is going through.

The Brotherhood has performed its activities openly, not secretly, as some are accusing them. They participated in the unions, local councils, and People's Assembly. It has not been proven that a single member of the Brotherhood has been involved in any of the many incidents that have taken place over 25 years. But the security men and the known hired writers who write in well-known newspapers and magazines insist on unfairly accusing us of being a secret organization that adopts violence and terrorism and wants to get to power through force.

Despite our denying these accusations, they keep repeating them. In this way they are lying and publishing lies about us, thus harming the officials instead of serving them. The authorities then resort to campaigns of arresting the most honorable men in this homeland who have a glorious history in their positions and governorates. They are held in prison for months on end. The last of these campaigns was the arrest of 200 Brotherhood members who were taking part in an official youth camp, which the security forces claimed was a special training camp to train youths in semimilitary activities to

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prepare them for combat. This is all lies and fabrication. We then hear that these youths are being subjected to every form of torture and injury. This governmental terrorism that is being practiced against us harms the ruling regime at a time when it is alleged that we are adopting terrorism and cooperating with other groups. The conflict between us and them is old and well-known. Perhaps what journalist Jamal Badawi was subjected to was just one of the terrible forms of governmental terrorism, which, in and of itself, harms the regime. We hope it will be investigated seriously to clear the regime of it.

I challenge anyone to offer one piece of evidence justifying the accusation that the Brothers want to topple the ruling regime by force. What kind of government is this under which we are suffering all these tribulations? All we want is rule by God's shari'ah [Islamic law]. We will be the soldiers and helpers of any ruler who rules by God's shari'ah.

This escalation between the regime and the Brothers has increased with the approach of the People's Assembly elections, particularly after the regime sensed the pro-Islamist response from the professional unions, despite law number 100 and other such laws. The Constitution gives every citizen the right to nominate himself and raise the slogan he believes will reform the system. The Brothers believe there is no reform or remedy except through Islam, because it comes from God, who knows mankind well, and will benefit and help them. If the regime had adopted this slogan and expressed concern over applying Islam, there would have been no reason for this escalation. The Brotherhood does not believe the coming election battle will be a decisive one, but it is a step along the road for them to hoist, through the Assembly, this Islamic slogan as a means to convince people of it. The regime is expected to allow the people to judge the parties in free and honest elections without pressure or terrorism for stability to be established. Only then can we have reform.

We would like to say that we do not want to respond to every unfair accusation by the hired writers, because every time we refute an accusation they will find another one for argument's sake and so on. But I take this opportunity to say that it has been made clear that what has been said about me—that I dismissed the general guide—is an obvious lie. The general guide himself responded to and denied it.

As for Sudan, I attended the popular conference in Khartoum. It was attended by hundreds of representatives of minorities and Islamic movements. I read a research paper I had written and that was published in the Egyptian papers. I addressed the concerns of the Islamic world and the suffering of the Muslims everywhere. This was the end of the matter. There are no public or private agreements between us and Dr. al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front in Sudan. Some people's attempts to exploit the sinful Addis Ababa incident and the accompanying accusations against the Sudanese authorities to raise suspicions about the Brothers represent cheap exploitation designed to confuse things. Praise be to God, we are above all this.

Thus, we lament our situation to God. He is the God of the oppressed. He is our God to whom we lament our weakness, helplessness, and powerlessness in the eyes of the people. We know he responds to the call of the oppressed. There is no barrier between us and God. O how many oppressed people there are in the detention camps, along with their parents and children. We are very hopeful that God will support us and make us victorious. Victory comes through patience. After the rain comes sunshine. All the forces of the world united cannot face God's power and force. And God hath full power and control over his affairs, but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse] God is our best supporter.

4 Opposition Parties To Participate in Elections

NC1408155895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1445 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Four political parties from the opposition have affirmed the need to take part in the People's Assembly elections this year, whether they are held according to the individual ticket system or the list system. The parties said that the participation of political parties in the elections is a national and pan-Arab duty.

These parties are the Ummah Party, the Unionist Democratic Party, the Egyptian Greens Party, and the People's Democratic Party.

The Party leaders issued a statement after their meeting today, announcing that they will run in the elections in coordination with all the opposition parties and national forces under one banner. The name of the candidate will appear as an opposition and national forces candidate, without mentioning the name of the party.

The statement said that the heads of the four parties decided to continue contacts and negotiations with the rest of the opposition parties and national forces to coordinate moves on how to run in the elections. The statement was signed by Mr. Ahmad al-Sabahi, leader of the Ummah Party; Ibrahim Turk, leader of the Unionist Democratic Party; Anwar 'Afifi, leader

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of the Democratic People's Party; and Hasan 'Abd-al-Salam al-Khayyat, member of the Greens Party higher committee.

Libya

Official Expresses 'Astonishment' at Clinton Remarks

LD1108163095 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An authoritative source at the General People's Committee for Unity has expressed astonishment at the statements made by the American President following the defection of a number of Iraqi officials to Jordan and their implications.

His statements have confirmed the interference of the United States in the internal affairs of an independent and a sovereign state and a change of the American attitude toward Jordan, which used to be an anti-American country during the Gulf war due to its opposition to the presence of the American forces in the region. Today, however, the American President is describing Jordan as an ally which can count on American protection if threatened.

One should wonder here about the reasons behind the change in the American attitude toward Jordan. It is not very hard to understand why: Jordan has recognized the Israelis, signed agreements with them, and opened its doors to their tourists and traders within the framework of normalizing its relations with them and removing all aspects of its boycott. in violation of Arab boycott resolutions. Thanks to their good relations, the Israelis have even managed to rent land from Jordan.

The source reiterated, furthermore, that American interference in offering Jordan protection in the face of any alleged threats is another form of hegemony being imposed upon the Jordanian people in order to tie it to the American-Israeli order.

An authoritative source at the General People's Committee for Unity has also expressed astonishment at the American President's statement on Sudan and his request for the Sudanese authorities to either release Sadiq al-Mahdi immediately or put him on trial . Such a statement is a clear indication that America is determined to exercise the role of so-called policeman of the world, a role which has justified the American President's flagrant interference in the internal affairs of an independent and sovereign state by ordering it to take measures which are inherent to its sovereignty.

The source added that he would not be surprised if Sudan were to take necessary measures to protect the sovereignty of the country by shutting down the American Embassy and severing relations with America in retaliation for its arrogance and insolence and to avenge the hurt dignity of the sons of fraternal Sudan.

Statement Attacks U.S.-Jordan Military Maneuvers

LD1408125095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Statement by the "brother leader of the revolution" to JANA; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 14 Aug (JANA) — The policy of military maneuvers and the deployment of fleets reveals and confirms to the world that statements claiming the "end of the cold war" are no more than lies. The best evidence of this deliberate rampage are the Red Sea maneuvers now taking place between America and the so-called Jordan immediately after a person from Baghdad asked for political asylum in Amman.

The policy of terrorizing the Arab people is followed by America, a country hostile to pan-Arabism. No Arab government that respects the feelings of its people should participate in the maneuvers, and any Arab ruler who encourages America in this, especially by bringing it to the Red Sea, which was an Arab sea on all sides, is in reality practising the profession of [?survival on handouts].

Clinton's Nuclear Test Ban Welcomed, Questioned

LD1208200295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1805 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 12 Aug (JANA) — The Great Jamahiriyah welcomes U.S. President Bill Clinton's 11 August statement announcing his decision to conduct negotiations aimed at abolishing all nuclear tests, including laboratory tests.

If one is to believe these intentions, they reveal an important step in bolstering the efforts of the international community aimed at halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons and saving the nations of the world from the terrible perils inherent in the spread of these weapons.

There is no doubt that President Clinton's statement reflects mankind's wish to discard nuclear weapons so that the nations of the world can enjoy the peace they are seeking, while at the same time these nations will find that they will not need to build huge armies or spark off destructive wars.

However, what makes us doubt the credibility of this announcement is the clear contradiction between the statements of the American President and the hellish actions of some U.S. Government agencies which are more powerful than the American President .

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Some examples of these actions by the U.S. Government were observed last year, when, in complete secrecy and in a clear act of piracy, they transported 600 kilograms of radioactive uranium, which was ready for use in the manufacture of nuclear weapons, from Kazakhstan to the American state of "Texas." [quotation marks as received] That operation revealed an overwhelming desire to control the manufacture, stockpiling and monopoly of nuclear weapons.

In order that the U.S. President's statements have some credibility, the radioactive uranium that was shipped out of Kazakhstan should be handed over to the International Atomic Energy Agency. If this is done then the deeds of the American Administration would match its words.

Envoy Sees No Intention To Expel Egyptians

NC1308150195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 13 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Libya Ahmad Wahdan has said that as soon as he arrived here from Cairo yesterday he held intensive contacts with Libyan officials in the Libyan Jamahiriyah Secretariats of Unity, Justice, and Interior. He stressed that he sensed that the Libyan Government has no intention of dismissing Egyptian workers. Just the opposite, he said, adding that he feels that Libya welcomes the Egyptian workers' efforts alongside their Libyan brothers in implementing the development plans.

The ambassador—who cut short his leave on instructions from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in order to discuss media reports of mass deportations of Egyptian workers—said that he is holding contacts with Libyan officials to arrange for a visit by an Egyptian ad hoc committee, which will arrive in Tripoli this evening to discuss arrangements for the Egyptian workers and to ensure that they are paid. He noted that the only thing that has happened is just a reorganization and a restructuring of workers affairs in certain Libyan areas.

Secretariat Denies Explusion Reports

LD1108160795 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of Arab information organs in fraternal Egypt have published news reports of what they call the expulsion of Egyptians from Libya and that Egyptian deportees have begun arriving back in Egypt.

The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Unity, which has been astonished by the published reports, has confirmed that following an investigation into the movement of persons in and out of the country at the joint border-control posts, the movement of people moving into or out of Libya is normal and that the great Jamahiriyah is bound by all its bilateral agreements with the Arab Republic of Egypt. There is no evidence of any measures to harm or deport the Egyptian brethren, numbering more than one and a half million, who have been living in the country in order to consecrate the values of brotherhood and unity and to contribute to the development of the country with their Libyan brethren, the Secretariat added.

The Egyptian Liaison Bureau has also stressed to the officials of the General People Committee's for Unity that contrary to reports, they have not made any statements on this matter.

Official Says Workers Cared For

NC1408130595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 14 Aug (MENA)—Ambassador Ahmad Wahdan, director of the bureau responsible Egyptian-Libyan relations, has stated that relations between the leaders and people of the two countries are stronger and better than ever before. He described the relations as distinguished.

Ambassador Wahdan said in a statement to the Libyan Jamahiriyah news agency, JANA, that there is developed and continuing cooperation between Egypt and Libya in several areas and that the large number of Egyptian workers in Libya reflects the level of cooperation between the two countries.

With regard to what some news agencies have reported on Egyptian workers in Libya, Ambassador Wahdan affirmed that Egyptian workers in Libya are getting the care they need and that they enjoy all their rights. He clarified that consultations continue between the two countries' officials to realize the interests of the united Arab people in Libya and Egypt.

Minister Signs Security Agreement With Algeria

LD1108153995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 11 Aug (JANA) — The minutes of an agreement on cooperation in the security field between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria were signed in Tripoli on 10 August.

The minutes include consolidating cooperation in the security field and exchanging visits by experts from the two countries.

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The signing ceremony was attended by the Muhammad al-Hijazi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security, and Mustapha Benmansour, the brotherly Algerian minister of interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform. The ceremony was also attended by the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah and members of the Libyan Arab and Algerian delegations.

Algerian Minister Praises Security Cooperation

LD1108183195 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] August 11, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY — A meeting has been held between the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and General Security and Mustapha Benmansour the Algerian interior minister, in Tripoli yesterday.

Members of the Libyan Algerian Joint Committee for Security Co-operation attended the meeting in addition to the Algerian ambassador in the great Jamahiriya.

The secretary of General Committee for Justice and General Security made a speech in which he welcomed the Algerian minister and his delegation and asserted the deepness of the relationships between the sisterly countries and the desire of the great Jamahiriya for co-operation with Algeria in different fields concerning security and halting the crimes and in the field of training and exchange of experiencies.

The Algerian minister made a speech in the meeting in which he expressed his happiness and appreciation for the visit and asserted that this co-operation represented a practical implementation to the historic steps made by the two leaders Colonel Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi and Liamine Zeroual.

Paper Reports Attempt on al-Qadhdhafi's Life

JN1508100995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-MAJD has learned that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was exposed to an assassination attempt two weeks ago when shots were fired at him in the city of Surt, his birthplace.

Well-informed sources told AL-MAJD that al-Qadhdhafi escaped the attempt, but the Libyan security forces could not arrest the assailants. The sources added that the deportation of Palestinians and Egyptians from Libya, which began two weeks ago, was due to suspicions that the attackers of al-Qadhdhafi were Arab expatriates and not Libyans.

Concluding, the sources said that when Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Libya and requested to meet al-Qadhdhafi to mediate an end to the deportation of Palestinians and other Arab expatriates, Libyan officials divulged to him that shots were fired at al-Qadhdhafi.

AL-MAJD has also learned that the Palestinian Authority has given priority to the repatriation of about 5,000 Palestinians deportees from Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Benghazi Experts

LD1108220295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1930 GMT on 11 August carries a recording of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's meeting with the league of Benghazi experts. Reception is poor to fair.

Al-Qadhdhafi talks about channelling resources to the best advantage: Libyans must begin to build their life afresh now that they are free of foreign domination; people must not claim to know more than they really do know. They should leave it to the experts. Al-Qadhdhafi says that as far as he is concerned, his task is to participate in the liberation of the mind. Free will is a product of the revolution. All the reforms in the country consist in the gradual application of the revolutionary principles. As experts, he adds, you should know the capabilities of your own country.

Al-Qadhdhafi asks a member of the audience to explain the Benghazi economic plan. This official obliges by expressing an opinion. The gathering then turns into a general discussion on the economic plan. The experts' task is to draw up the plan, and they also have the task of supervising its implementation. The members of the popular leadership are formed from various strata. Its task is to coordinate between experts and the popular committees. It is like a brain of, and an umbrella for, the area. Some of the experts might be members of the popular leaderships. Implementing the plan lies with the experts.

The time for theory is at an end and now is the time for action. All organs of the state have to coordinate their actions and plans. Experts are people who are aware of the responsibility on their shoulders, hence their planning is a responsible action. The Benghazi experts actually plan for all of Libya and not just Benghazi. Libya relies on them. That is why foreign experts are not needed to come and give their expert opinion on whatever project is planned. The experts of the region are the best people to know what is best for that region. Experts must not, however, overestimate more than they need for the project in mind.

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Al-Qadhdhafi then talks about oil and says that oil is not infinite; hence, a substitute must be found when it is exhausted. When a plan is drawn up, it should be a logical plan. The abundance of experts in a region like Benghazi is something that does us proud. A heretic cannot be an intelligent person because he is ignorant. If he is educated, he would not be heretically minded. Al-Qadhdhafi gives Japan as an example of the benefit of being educated. Japan imports oil but it uses it in the manufacture of so many things. Its exports outweigh its imports. Yet it is a country that imports almost everything. Al-Qadhdhafi then asks members of his audience to say whatever they want to say. Two people take the microphone to sing his praises and say that he must not stop guiding them with valued opinion .

After the discussion, al-Qadhdhafi is presented with flowers by young girls; this is followed by a speech delivered by the leader of the Benghazi experts. Then al-Qadhdhafi is awarded the high order of the League of Benghazi Experts.

Sudan

Spiritual Leader al-Turabi: 'Enemy Is America'

MS1508092595 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 15 Aug 95 p 8

[Report on interview with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, spiritual leader of National Islamic Front, by Louise Tunbridge; place and date not given: "Islam Crusade Warning For US 'Enemy'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum — Fundamentalism is a term associated with terrorism, says Hasan al-Turabi, a slight man with buck teeth, sporting a white robe and turban and pink-rimmed glasses, reputed to be the power behind the throne in radical Islamic Sudan.

"It's a misleading word," he says. "It was started by the Americans, they are very ignorant, they know very little about the world."

Playing to an audience of foreign reporters at his home in a new suburb of the capital, he emphasises his words with theatrical gestures.

"What's happening today is that Sudan is asserting Islamic values in public life. There's an Islamic renaissance going on in the world and it's going to express itself. I don't think history can be stopped."

Observers say Dr Turabi's pronouncements often become the government line, although officially he has no position other than that of spiritual leader of the National Islamic Front, a minority party that dominates Sudan's military regime.

Sudan's critics, however, choose the term fundamentalist to describe a government they believe is indeed associated with terrorism.

Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, pointed the finger at Dr Turabi and what he called his "criminal gang" for the recent attempt on his life in Addis Ababa. The cool response of Dr Turabi, a lawyer educated in London and Paris, was to salute the attackers as messengers of the Islamic faith.

No evidence has implicated Sudan in the attack, but diplomats confirm that arms regularly flow through the country. Western governments charge that Sudan supports a number of terrorist groups, including Egypt's Gama'a al-Islamiya, which claimed responsibility for the attack on Mr Mubarak.

"If they think we're terrorists they should come and look at our streets," Dr Turabi says. "There's much less violence in Sudan than in America."

However, the American ambassador to Khartoum, Donald Petterson, travels in an armoured car with an escort of armed bodyguards.

The United States blacklisted Sudan as a sponsor of terrorism in August 1993 and stopped all economic and military support.

Mr Petterson brackets Sudan with Iran as the only Islamic fundamentalist governments in the world. Relations between Sudan and America are "very sour". There is a "compelling body of evidence" proving Sudan's relationship with terrorist organisations, but he says: "Unfortunately for me to try to make a case, I cannot give them the full range of evidence we have because of its sensitive nature."

He cites only a firsthand account last year by a member of the militant Palestinian group Hamas, who received training at a camp in Sudan. The Sudanese government dismissed the report, saying the camp was a Popular Defence Force facility.

"We want to see a change from the relationship which elements of this government have with terrorist organisations," says Mr Petterson. "It's bad enough that every terrorist organisation can come here, but in addition they have offices here, many of them. The government denies it but we know that this is indeed a fact."

The Hamas office in Khartoum is easy to find in the Ammarat district. A bearded man introduced himself as Munir Sa'id, the Hamas representative.

"We are not a terrorist, organisation. Palestine is for us, not for Israelis. We make jihad (holy war) to make Palestine free. This is not a terrorist thing," he said.

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Mr Sa'id said he and his wife and five children were among 400-500 Palestinians living in Sudan. "We have this office to make good relations with Sudan. Be sure that there are no camps in Sudan or any other Arabic countries. All our training is done inside Palestine."

Mr Sa'id confirmed the presence of members of the Palestinian group Abu Nidal, but said they had no office in Khartoum.

Despite the political and economic isolation resulting from their policies, leaders such as Dr Turabi — determined to change Sudan's image as a "lightweight" — are confident they are on the right course.

According to Dr Turabi the history of the Crusades is not over. "The enemy is America," he said. "If we are challenged economically we will develop our own country, we are very rich; if we are challenged culturally we will develop our own culture; if we are challenged militarily, we will have to fight back."

Senior Commanders Discuss SSIM Leadership

AB1408181595 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 14 Aug 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program hosted by Kwabena Mensah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Trouble has broken out in the leadership of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rivals, the South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM]. SSIM was founded by Riak Machar after his breakaway from the SPLA four years ago, but today a group, led by two of his most senior commanders, John Luk and William Nyuon, announced that Machar had been deposed. On the line to Nairobi, Robin White asked John Luk why they turned against Riak Machar:

[Begin recording] [Luk] He just failed to organize the people. He is asking his own soldiers to fight themselves, to fight each other, and therefore we are trying to put a stop this, so that our forces in all the SSIM area are all peaceful and all reorganized to fight the enemy.

[White] When you say that they are fighting each other, exactly what are they doing?

[Luk] In fact, Riak has been ordering for instance in Wad.... [pauses] The force in Wad has been fighting one of its operational commanders, that is, Commander (Peter Manyalk) has been fought for the last two months.

[White] And you said you've removed him as leader, I mean, what does that mean in practice? I mean you haven't locked him up or put him in jail or anything, have you? What does it mean in practice?

[Luk] In practice, it means that we have asked all our commanders on the ground, the governors in the various (?areas) controlled by SSIM, not to obey Riak's orders; 2) [numbering as heard] to stop fighting each other. We are now in control and we want our forces on the ground not to respond to orders from Riak Machar.

[White] But do you think these people will obey you?

[Luk] Yes, we believe that these people will obey us, because they know that we are the only people competent to reorganize the forces, to reequip them, and to organize them for... [pauses] (?prepare them for the coming) next dry season.

[White] Where is William Nyuon now?

[Luk] William Nyuon is in Nayud area. He left after signing the statement which we made today. He left immediately to take command of the forces. Riak Machar will not go down again. He will have to remain in Nairobi as he has been here for the last (?10) months, and therefore William has taken effective command of our forces. [end recording]

So, the charge is that Riak Machar has been deposed because he encouraged infighting within his own movement. Well, also in Nairobi at the moment is Riak Machar's spokesman, David de Chand. On the line, Robin White asked him how he reacted to those accusations:

[Begin recording] [De Chand] I say that is not true. William Nyuon and John Luk have not overthrown Riak Machar.

[White] But, hasn't there been fighting going on within your organization?

[De Chand] No, not that I know of.

[White] Well, they specifically say that, for instance, in the town of Wad, Riak Machar ordered some men to go and attack other men?

[De Chand] That is not true. That is one of the officers that they have in front and that officer does not have any support.

[White] So, the troops in the field, who are they now going to obey? Riak Machar or William Nyuon?

[De Chand] I think, as far as I know, they are loyal to Riak Machar.

[White] What will you do with William Nyoun and John Luk?

[De Chand] Well, I think they are not part of the organization. William Nyuon is here on retirement. He is running his matatus business. If he goes to SSIM areas

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without the permission of the SSIM leadership, he will be arrested.

[White] Apparently he's gone.

[De Chand] But he is here in Nairobi.

[White] Apparently.

[De Chand] As far as John Luk is concerned, he has been disowned even by his own constituency in Wad. He cannot even go to Wad today. If I ask him, here is a plane, let's go to Wad, he will not go. So, I think whatever they are doing here in Nairobi is what I call confusion, because they lack vision.

[White] Apparently William Nyuon has left today for the southern Sudan.

[De Chand] We don't know about that, but we have been... [pauses] we have alerted our forces all over south Sudan. Wherever he lands, whatever plane he takes, he knows what will be the consequences of that.

[White] What will be the consequences of that?

[De Chand] If we get hold of him, he is going to be arrested. [end recording]

Crisis With Ethiopia Said Set To 'Explode'

MM1408145795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Relations Between Sudan and Ethiopia Moving Toward Imminent Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Informed diplomatic sources have said that relations between Sudan and Ethiopia are moving toward an imminent crisis unless Khartoum hands over three Egyptian fundamentalists wanted by Addis Ababa on charges of planning the attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's life.

Meanwhile, Sudanese sources have linked the large-scale changes made by Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir in his security services the day before yesterday to the concealed crisis with Ethiopia.

At another level, the Sudanese Armed Forces announced in a statement issued the day before yesterday that they have recaptured from the Garang movement the town of Kaia near Sudan's common border with Uganda and Zaire.

With regard to Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, diplomatic sources expect a crisis to explode between the two countries, especially in view of recent contacts, during which Ethiopia demanded that Sudan hand over three Egyptian fundamentalists believed to be behind the plan to assassinate President Mubarak in Ethiopia.

The sources said that Ethiopian investigators gathered through their interrogation of the detainees minute details about those who carried out the attempt on President Mubarak. And that in the light of the investigation, the Ethiopian Government demanded that Khartoum hand over the three Egyptians, whom it insisted are on Sudanese territory.

The sources pointed out that Addis Ababa and Khartoum are concealing the contacts being made between them over this issue. But it seems that the concealed crisis is about to explode if Addis Ababa does not receive a confirmation of Khartoum's wish to cooperate and hand over the wanted elements, according to the sources. [passage omitted]

Unions March, Celebrate Recapture of Kaia

EA1408192995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Masses of the trade union movement today marched to the Armed Forces general command in a ceremony marking the liberation of Kaia. The march was addressed by the first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, who stressed that the recapture of Kaia constitutes a profound lesson for the New World Order, elements of the puppet opposition, and remnants of the defeated rebellion.

He said the recapture of Kaia came during the birthday anniversary of the prophet, peace be upon him, and the Armed Forces' Day, and was part of the new political transformation. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Interviewed on Asmara Forum, Arrest

MM1408121895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Aug 95 p 7

[Interview with Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, secretary general of the Sudanese Democratic National Grouping, by Nizar Daww-al-Na'im in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Daww-al-Na'im] What were the achievements of the recent opposition conference and what changes has it has brought about with regard to the future of Sudan as well as the future of the opposition action?

[Al-Mahdi] The conference made great achievements by finding solutions for basic issues and problems that have afflicted the Sudanese political life since the dawn of independence. But how often things that seem harmful yield beneficial results: The Sudanese regime's indulgence in this state of extremism has caused people to unify their views and try to find solutions for the problems from which their country has been suffering.

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Perhaps the most important achievement the Asmara conference made was to lay the foundation for a peace agreement to end the war and reach an agreement on the form of government that would run the country during the transitional period, on relations between the north and the south, and on the type of the decentralized government needed in Sudan.

The conference also succeeded in agreeing on a formula governing religion and its relationship with the state. It also succeeded in achieving some sort of way to contain the slogan of self-determination (for the south) so that instead of being used for secessionist purposes, a set of arrangements were drawn up for it to insure, to a large extent, its use in bolstering the unity of Sudan. Furthermore, the conference succeeded in settling matters pertaining to the organization of the opposition, its activities and its plan of action.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Your detractors concentrate in their criticism on the fact that the past position of the rebel movement centered on either the establishment of a secular state in Sudan or the acquisition of the right of self-determination and they now notice that the Asmara agreement has met both rebel demands, at a time when the rebels would have been prepared to accept just one of the two demands. What do you say to that?

[Al-Mahdi] There is some confusion here. First of all, the right to self-determination, after its first introduction by the Islamic Front in the Sudanese political program under the January 1992 Frankfurt agreement, became a slogan around which the unionist as well as the secessionist southern forces rallied as being a compromise that would prevent their further division until such time as they would be able to rid themselves of the common enemy. Afterwards, this slogan was adopted at the regional as well as the international levels, as happened in October 1993 in Washington and was embodied in the Declaration of Principles issued by the mediators of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD].

The Declaration of Principles raised two issues: secularism and self-determination on the ground that both were needed. Thus self-determination became some sort of a guarantee that would eliminate the suspicions resulting from 40 years of war. It was also understood that once an agreement was reached on a peace program and the establishment of a unified state in Sudan and once this program was put into operation during the transitional period, the right of self-determination would follow acting as a guarantee, because should one side fail to abide by the program during the transitional period, the other side would have the right to decide whether to exercise self-determination and so choose the future it wants or affirm unity on the basis of its own free choice and conviction, exercising its rights under this unity.

So in reply to the detractors, I would say that the new thing in this regard was that the Asmara conference gave priority to the question of unity and committed the southerners to the option of unity and the adoption of a joint stance with the other forces in the planned referendum once the agreement we have reached is implemented.

With regard to the question of secularism, some sort of agreement on a compromise was reached to stop polarizatioon in the political arena between secularism and Islamism and to concentrate, instead, on the citizenship rights and on the building of a state founded on citizenship, democracy, and multiplicity of religions and not on the basis of one religion.

[Daww-al-Na'im] But the Asmara agreement provides for separation between religion and the state, and this means secularism. Does it not?

[Al-Mahdi] No. The agreement speaks of the relationship between religion and politics. It does not speak of the relationship between religion and the state. The difference between the two cases is that the state is required to safeguard religions and the proagation of religious and spiritual teachings.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Can we understand from this that an Islamic state could be set up under the Asmara agreement?

[Al-Mahdi] No. It has been agreed since 1993 to keep away from names and concentrate on the essences of the issue, that is, not to call the state an Islamic state or a secular state but to call it a democratic state based on citizenship and religious plurality. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] Many people fear that the Asmara agreement might pave the way for the creation of two states in Sudan as soon as the opposition succeeds in toppling the regime. There are numerous examples in history which help to confirm this likelihood, such as what happened in the case of Ethiopia and Eritrea and in the case of Sudanese-Egyptian relations. What guarantees are there to prevent this happening in Sudan too?

[Al-Mahdi] There is no room for comparison, because the relationship between Egypt and Sudan was one of a colonial power, as Egypt ruled Sudan within the framework of the Anglo-Egyptian bilateral rule. The slogan of the unity of the Nile Valley arose in a climate dominated by the idea of national liberation. It also arose in view of the claims for sovereignty over Sudan made by Egypt in the days of the monarchy. So it was

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not a relationship between two equals. With regard to Ethiopia and Eritrea, Eritrea was an independent state which Ethiopia annexed by force.

The Asmara agreement was concluded basically to prevent the creation of two states, because recognition of the principle of unity by choice after agreeing on a just basis for Sudanese rule and granting the brothers in the south their rights and the authorities they deem fit within the framework of a unified Sudan would guarantee unity, particularly in the light of the conviction that the war has not only failed to realize unity but also has undermined Sudan's stability and exposed its entity to the threat of division and exposed it to threats. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] Following the Asmara agreement, the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Movement has become a full member of the National Grouping and not just a mere wing or an ally of it. Does this new situation commit it not to enter into any unilateral negotiations with the Government, like the other members of the Grouping? Does the Movement's joining of the Grouping necessitate that it should seek permission of the unified command of the opposition before entering into any negotiations, or can any member of the Grouping act in the manner it deems fit?

[Al-Mahdi] The Grouping is set up as a front of a flexible nature and so it does not preclude partisan activity. However, any partisan activity must abide by the programs that have been the subject of contractual agreements. It is not necessary for these programs to be represented through the structure of the Grouping as a whole as it is possible for any party to express these same programs in any move it embarks upon. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] A few days after the conclusion of the Asmara conference people discovered that its resolutions were not signed, and consequently they were not binding. This matter manifested itself even more sharply when the Democratic Unionist Party expressed its desire to have one of the conference's resolutions amended. This repeated experience in the amendment of opposition charters and the conflicts they spark off rob the opposition of its credibility. What is your reply to the amendment request? What prevents the signing of an agreement as soon its provisions have been agreed upon?

[Al-Mahdi] The signing of the final form of resolutions is only a formality. Even from the legal and contractual commitment point of view, participation in the committees is deemed to make these resolutions binding. Furthermore the approval of the reports of these committees (and their passage) at any final session is recorded in voice and in writing and in the presence of all leaders who deliver speeches expressing support for these resolutions. So the signing of the final text is considered to be of secondary importance and can take place at any later date.

[Daww-al-Na'im] What brought up this subject was the demand for the amendment of a text that has already been passed.

[Al-Mahdi] We have not received any proposal for amendment. However, during a joint meeting of the leadership committee and the executive bureau in Cairo, we discussed a note received from the Unionist Party stating that certain phrases, which appeared in the preamble of the self-determination resolution, seem not to have been included in the final communique. Indeed, the phrases, which the Unionist Party considered important, were thus added to the communique. From a legal point of view, we cannot make any amendments, and from a practical point of view, we have not received any request for amendment, and from a moral point of view we should not carry out any amendment.

[Daww-al-Na'im] Following the winding up of the Asmara conference, applications for joining were received by the from the "South Sudan Independence Movement" grouping, the "Ba'th" Party and the "Revolutionary Committees" movement. What is your reply to all these applications and what are the basis on which other forces can join the Grouping?

[Al-Mahdi] The basis for joining are: commitment to the charters of the Grouping and belief in plurality. However, the conference adopted a decision to accept two organizations as an exceptional case. These were the "Al-Bajah Conference" and the "Allied Sudanese Forces." This acceptance of the two aforementioned groups was done as an exceptional case, in regard to which bylaws were suspended and this was justified by some jurists. Following the acceptance of these two organizations, a committee was formed to accept new members.

This committee will propose the criteria to be applied in this regard. Any new applications received will be considered in the light of the new criteria at the first meeting of the leadership committee.

We have not received any application from the "Ba'th" Party or the "Revolutionary Committees." However, we have lately received an application from (Commander of the "South Sudan Independence Movement," Dr.) Riak Mashar. This application will be considered during the nest meeting of the leadership committee in October.

[Daww-al-Na'im] We have noticed that the Ummah Party has kept quiet about the arrest of its president,

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al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, particularly when the government made statements in which it intimated that al-Mahdi being held by it. What pressure have you been exerting to secure his release?

[Al-Mahdi] We have not kept quiet, and internal mobilization is continuing and is increasing, not decreasing. The tone of al-Ansar's letter to the regime has not changed. We are also making moves within the international framework and the framework of the humanitarian organizations. We will shortly issue a statement about the new developments taking place with regard to the case of the arrest of the prime minister, his interrogation, and the conditions he is in now and any other information we had from our sources within the security apparatus.

As to the second part of your question, the Ummah Party as an institution has not left its actions to circumstance. Besides, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is a Sudanese leader before being a leader or president of the Ummah Party, and his political and Islamic weight exceeds the bounds of his post as president of the Ummah Party. He is also leader of al-Ansar and is a well-known international personality. Al-Ansar and the Ummah Party are part of the quarters that rushed to defend him.

Because of such circumstances, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was exempted from his party duties because he was being pursued and his position does not permit him to carry out his party activities.

All that is being said about us being told by the regime that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is in custody and that he has expressed his wish that we suspend our activities and thus ease the pressure on him, as has been reported in the government newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI is unacceptable. We reject the idea of considering al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to be in custody. We warn the regime against resorting to such methods of dealing. We will not succumb to blackmail and indeed we have increased, rather than decreased, our activities since the arrest of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

We shall hold the Islamic Front (and Dr.) Hasan al-Turabi fully responsible for the safety of al-Mahdi and his life. We affirm that any harm to him will draw the Islamic Front into catastrophes it can do without. To punish a person for the actions of another is prohibited by Islam, which they are calling for adherence to. We believe that the arrest of al-Mahdi will harm the regime because it will only serve mobilization against the regime. The harm we will suffer will be less than the harm they will suffer. [passage omitted]

[Daww-al-Na'im] After of six years of al-Bashir rule many seem to be convinced that his regime is more capable of lasting and continuing than the regime you are calling for.

[Al-Mahdi] Ruling is not an objective in itself, but a means for serving objectives. It is linked to establishing security and reassurance, providing services, and developing the country's resources. Regimes are not measured by how long they have lasted. I do not believe that an armed group's continuation in power by force of arms at a time when the economy, foreign relations, and services around it have been collapsing, constitutes proof of success, because the measure of success is staying in power with people's approval and not by repression. For this reason, what you have said is not correct. This is because the regime is staying in power amidst social and political debris and because it turned itself into an armed gang, which is trying to frighten others. This sort of rule is short-lived, because arms alone cannot be the constituents of power, there must also be political, economic, and social constituents.

If we look to the recent elections, for example, we find that they amounted to a referendum against the regime. The same applies to its failure to deal with the question of war and peace. The collapse of services and the deterioration of morals and the citizen's living standards, the erosion of the Islamic Front's membership and the question of foreign isolation all provide proof of failure and not success, and I believe that the regime is now in its weakest state while the opposition at its strongest.

[Daww-al-Na'im] How could that be?

[Al-Mahdi] I will give you an example. The information we received during the Asmara conference was that the Sudanese leadership had ordered the bombing of the Eritrean capital from the air, but the responsible military officers advised against this option because the airmen would defect abroad with their planes, and so the idea was set aside.

We have penetrated the regime's institutions and can see from within the level of weakness to which it has fallen.

Here is another example. The government cannot transfer any diplomat or administrative official abroad without him asking for political asylum, as has happened recently with diplomats accredited to three Third World countries and an ambassador accredited to a First World country.

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'Legitimate Command' Accuses Bushra of Betrayal

MM1508103995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Zayn al-'Abidin Ahmad: "Sudanese Opposition Military Command Attacks One of Its Dissidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The Sudanese opposition organization the Armed Forces "Legitimate Command" has accused Major General al-Hadi Bushra Hasan, member of the Legitimate Command, of "contravening the principles of the Sudanese national cause and the principles of the Legitimate Command, of which he was one of the founders."

In a statement issued yesterday in Cairo, the Legitimate Command said that Bushra, who returned to Khartoum last week and attacked the opposition, "had sold himself to the Khartoum regime, which he had opposed for a long period."

The statement also said that during his work with the organization, Maj. Gen. Bushra was "a fomenter of trouble and a source of disagreements with other political powers, and caused the Legitimate Command a great deal of embarrassment. He was also the cause of the defection of some comrades in arms from the organization."

The statement added that "the Legitimate Command had misjudged the problem relating to the Bushra case, especially since he had informed the Legitimate Command of his daughter's illness and need of treatment abroad. The Command contacted some benefactors who provided the help needed, which was gratefully accepted. He, however, traveled to an Arab country and accepted funding for his daughter's treatment from the Islamic Front government despite the fact that the money he had received [from the Legitimate Command] exceeded the amount needed. This was when he started plotting through suspect contacts with the Sudanese ambassador to that country and with Mahdi Ibrahim, one of the state ministers of the Khartoum regime."

The statement reaffirmed also that "what Bushra said in his press conference in Khartoum regarding the opposition conference in Asmara and the right to self-determination totally contradicts his leanings during his work with the opposition. Al-Hadi Bushra was one of the most enthusiastic proponents of separating religion from politics and was even at the forefront, being responsible for formulating the Cairo statement of 1993 in which he announced the separation of religion from politics for the first time."

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Saddam Reportedly Granted Asylum by Moroccan King

TA1508134495 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior Arab and Western sources claim that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has sought political asylum in Morocco. The sources said that King Hassan II, the king of Morocco, agreed to the Iraqi president's request after consulting with several capitals.

The same sources added that intensive meetings attended by the regime's key figures and members of President Saddam's family, especially his brothers, sons, and heads of his clan, are taking place.

These sources point out that Saddam's family may have asked him to leave Baghdad to ensure that his followers remain in power so that others will not have the opportunity to take over power in Iraq, hence the request to King Hassan II to allow President Saddam to take refuge in Morocco.

Opposition Reports Saddam's Son Fatally Wounds Uncle

JN1508111495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Watban Ibrahim Hasan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's half-brother, died in Baghdad on the night of Sunday-Monday [13-14 August] from wounds sustained when 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's elder son, fired at him on 8 August.

Also Shoots Uncle's Wife, Others

JN1508130395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] said in a statement circulated in Damascus that Watban Ibrahim Hasan, President Saddam Husayn's brother, died Sunday [13 August] night of his wounds. The Iraqi president's son, 'Udayy, shot his uncle Watban on 8 August, according to the statement. The statement added that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn also shot his uncle's wife, Thurayya, and one of her sons, 'Ala', as well as three escorts, killing them all.

The PUK statement attributed this information to a medical source at the hospital to which Watban was admitted after his injury.

Saddam's Daughters Refuse To Meet 'Udayy in Amman

MM1508102195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Saddam's Two Daughters Refused To Meet With 'Udayy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH — A Jordanian informed source has told AL-HAYAH that President Saddam Husayn's daughters Raghd and Rana refused to meet with their brother, 'Udayy, when told by King Husayn that 'Udayy had asked to see them.

The source said that the meeting between King Husayn and 'Udayy, which was not attended by his uncle, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, lasted less than half an hour, during which the Jordanian monarch first asked him about the Baghdad-Amman road and whether he encountered any problems on his journey from Baghdad to Amman.

During the meeting, 'Udayy asked the king to permit him to meet with Husayn Kamil and his brother, Saddam, and members of the group who accompanied them. The king contacted them but they all refused. 'Udayy was surprised by that and he told the king that he had information that his sisters had been forced to leave Amman [as published]. The king then asked them about that and they denied it. When he told them that their brother, 'Udayy, wanted to see them, they refused. After that, 'Udayy asked King Husayn's permission to leave.

Check on 'Financial Activities' Cause of Defection

JN1408111995 Baghdad INA in English 0850 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug. 14, INA — The enemies of Iraq seem to be in an exuberant mood following the defection of Husayn Kamil. But these enemies should realize that they are counting on a losing horse in that Husayn Kamil gained his credibility and political weight from the fact that he is a relative of President Saddam Husayn. Now that he chose to step out of the glorious march led by President Saddam Husayn, he wronged himself and became bewildered and confused, the Iraqi English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said.

The paper added that the main reason for his defection was the leadership's decision to check his economic and financial activities which contradict his status. Husayn Kamil fell victim to his personal ambitions and became distressed when he felt that he was side-lined and upstaged by other officials.

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He will have no effect whatsoever on the political stage in Iraq and the glorious march of the revolution will continue without any let-up under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

As for President Saddam Husayn, he could be assured of the unwavering fidelity of Iraqis to his leadership simply because Iraqis are aware he is bearing the destinies of the country and the people on his shoulders. He scored great shining achievements never matched throughout the history of our country.

Therefore, President Saddam Husayn could count on the party faithfuls, the armed forces and the enlightened segments of our people who know for sure that without him the country will disintegrate.

The party faithfuls along with the patriotic segments of the society will continue their sanguinary struggle against the forces of darkness, retrogression and world arrogance even if the bones were broken and the bodies were mutilated to pieces, the paper said.

We have no other choice other than the choice of freedom, independence and dignity. We will never allow the feet of an invader to tread on this soil again at all costs.

The profound political knowledge of President Saddam Husayn, his magnanimity and superb art of leadership brought large numbers of Iraqis as well as Arab brothers to rally around him.

Through his firm resolve, indomitable will and his extraordinary revolutionary sweep, Iraqis will remain on course seeing the right path ahead and advance along that path towards freedom, independence and dignity.

Those who are engrossed in the scramble for the squandering of the funds of their people would reap nothing but disgrace and the curse of history.

The enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation will extract from the renegades whatever information they have and then discard them to the dustbin of history. This was always the fate of all apostates.

Husayn Kamil became bewildered and confused following the decision to check his economic and financial activities, the paper concluded.

Cultural Forum Holds Demonstration Against Defectors

JN1508093395 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 15, INA—A massive demonstration organized on Monday [14 August] by the Cultural Forum in Iraq took to the streets of Baghdad, chanting inflammatory slogans to voice absolute loyalty to President Saddam Husayn and the dear homeland.

The demonstrators condemned the act of treason and defection of Husayn Kamil, who wanted to undermine the steadfastness of Iraq's people and their great sacrifices and keep the anti-Iraq embargo in place for as long as possible.

The demonstrators expressed readiness to render dear sacrifices for defending the genuine values and principles and to employ their innovative capabilities to expose and foil all the wicked designs of the enemies.

Al-Samarra'i: Hasan Could Reveal Intelligence Secrets

NC1508143295 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Aug 15 (AFP)—A top Iraqi defector could strike a blow to President Saddam Husayn by revealing the source of secret funds which keep his troubled economy afloat, a former intelligence chief said Tuesday [15 August].

Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam's son-in-law who defected to Jordan last week, knows in which foreign banks the government placed its hard currency and Saddam stashed "stolen" funds, General Wafiq al-Samarra'i said.

"These are family secrets," al-Samarra'i, who was Iraq's military intelligence chief until he defected to Syria last year, told AFP by telephone from Damascus.

Iraq's overseas accounts were frozen under UN oil and trade sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but deposits held in private names escaped the measures.

The secret funds as well as sales of smuggled oil have been used to shore up the economy which is "destroying Saddam Husayn," he said. He is also selling wheat, phosphates and cement illegally, he said.

Al-Samarra'i and diplomats in the region added that the economic sanctions had weakened a once powerful security system. "The state of the economy has left an impact on security," al-Samarra'i said.

A general in one of Iraq's five intelligence agencies earns a maximum monthly salary of 10,000 dinars, which is worth five dollars at the current black market rates, he said.

Before the sanctions that amount would have been equivalent to around 30,000 dollars.

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Al-Samarra'i is a perfect example of how the security system is weakening. "I was under the surveillance of the five security services but still I managed to leave Iraq," he said.

Husayn Kamil managed to defect to Jordan on August 8 with his wife and around 30 other people because "he was above suspicion" as the husband of Saddam's eldest daughter Raghdah and his right-hand man, he said.

Husayn Kamil, the former head of military industrialization, could also reveal secrets about Iraq's nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic weapons programs, diplomats said.

Al-Samarra'i provided a glimpse into Saddam's intelligence network, which limits trust in people, relies on agencies watching over each other, and tolerates no mistakes when it comes to the president's own security.

Saddam's younger son Qusayy runs his Private Security agency, which employs the bodyguards of ministers and Ba'th Party officials who are tasked not only with protecting these people but also arresting them if they become suspect.

Saddam set up a second ring of security around him last year by naming his eldest son 'Udayy to direct the heavily-armed 25,000 Fedayeen (commandos).

The Private Security Agency watches over the four other services — the General Intelligence Service, General Security, Military Security and General Military Intelligence.

These services numbering about 20,000 individuals have both public and secret branches in every city of Iraq and their members enjoy considerable privileges.

The General Intelligence Service deals with cases of fighting, spying and plots against the state and collects information about other countries.

General Security fights political opposition inside Iraq, while Military Security fights cases of political opposition and spying inside the army.

His security force acts quickly and ruthlessly to quash any threats, al—Samarra'i said.

"For example, they would arrest 100 people and take them to a desert and dig a hole and put them in the hole, shoot them and cover the hole," he said.

Many people simply disappear without even being arrested or tried, he added.

Opposition Leader Ready To Meet With Defector

MM1408144995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri and Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Reports of Saddam's Contacts With Kamil and His Daughters; Amman Received Senior Saudi Official"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Kuwait, London, Damascus—Political, diplomatic, military, and security moves have intensified as a result of the complications caused by the defection to Jordan of the number-two man in Iraq, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi president's son-in-law, with some 30 companions and their families, among them Raghd, the president's daughter, and Husayn Kamil's wife, in addition to Rana, the president's daughter and wife of Saddam Kamil, Husayn Kamil's brother.

At the political level, it has been reported that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn made telephone contacts with Husayn Kamil, Raghd, and Rana and that the two daughters informed him of their decision to stay with their husbands.

The conversation between the president and Husayn Kamil was characterized by severity, especially after Kamil told the Iraqi president to step down peacefully. But President Saddam Husayn has prepared messages to a number of capitals designed to prove that he is still capable of remaining in power.

At the same level, Iraqi opposition leader Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim [chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq] has expressed his willingness to meet with Husayn Kamil. Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who is in Syria, has expressed the same willingness, even though he cast doubt on Husayn Kamil's view of [opposition] action.

An authoritative Jordanian source has announced that King Husayn last night received in Amman a Saudi official during the first visit of its kind since the Gulf war in 1991. The source declined to name the Saudi official. The source expects "positive developments in Saudi-Jordanian relations soon."

The Jordanian source said that the Saudi official's talks in Amman included the Husayn Kamil issue.

The source said that Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti will visit Saudi Arabia this week, carrying a message from King Husayn.

A Jordanian official has said that Saudi-Jordanian relations are witnessing continued improvement. He added: "It is clear that matters between us are moving rapidly." [passage omitted]

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It has been reported that after his son 'Udayy returned empty-handed from Jordan, the Iraqi president made telephone contacts with his daughters and Husayn Kamil and that Raghd and Rana informed him of their decision to stay with their husbands. The sources said that a heated discussion took place between President Saddam Husayn and Husayn Kamil, who told the president to depart Iraq peacefully to avert any bloody change in the country. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Maj. Gen. Wafiq al-Samarra'i, an [Iraqi] opposition leader based in Syria, has denied that Husayn Kamil made contacts with him. However, he expressed no objection to such contacts. He said: I do not believe that I would object to meeting or holding talks with Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan for the sake of Iraq's interests, provided that that is within the framework of the fixed principles represented in Iraq's unity and Arab identity, democracy, independent Iraqi decisionmaking, serious opposition action against the regime, and not to negotiate with the regime on any pretext.

On his position on Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim's announcement of his willingness to meet with Husayn Kamil, he said: "We have no sensitivities vis-a-vis meeting with any person raising a sincere national slogan to topple the dictatorial regime in Iraq and to establish a democratic system."

Al-Samarra'i criticized Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan's statements, because they did not clarify the future or his view of what the system of government in Iraq should be like. He said: "We are committed to a democratic and free system. Husayn Kamil mentioned nothing about this during his news conference in Amman. He said that he was working to make contacts with opposition forces, and we say that that is a good approach. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan is required not only to seek shelter abroad and expose Saddam Husayn's actions and regime, but also to work effectively against the regime and to utilize the capabilities available to him to that end."

Maj. Gen. Wafiq al-Samarra'i said that he does not expect a military coup these days. But he knows that the possibility of making a large-scale revolutionary change in Iraq is in the cards.

Opposition Welcomes Defections, Rules Out Contacts

MM1508083195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Naqib Appeals to the Army To Topple Saddam; al-Samarra'i Emphasizes 'Democratic Solution'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, yesterday stressed that Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid's defection to Amman would lead to "more defections from the regime and more internal disarray" in Iraq. Other Iraqi opposition groups in Damascus agree that the dispute between Husayn Kamil and President Saddam Husayn "is personal not ideological," and they refuse to hold contacts with him because he "stems from the very essence of the regime."

Major General Hasan al-Naqib, member of the Presidential Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], has described what happened as "a major crack in Saddam's regime despite the fact that it is a family dispute not a political one." He expressed the belief that Husayn Kamil would remain "a family opponent not a political opponent." He appealed to the "armed forces to learn the lesson and to overthrow Saddam's regime and spare the people the daily suffering."

Al-Samarra'i told AL-HAYAH in Damascus that "the personal and family conflicts within Saddam's regime have recently developed into political conflicts." He added that he is in favor of "a radical solution in Iraq. Saddam must be toppled and a democratic regime established. We bless any defection from the regime and we expect more steps from Gen. Husayn Kamil."

Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, the official in charge of political affairs in the "Iraqi Committee for the Coordination of Pan-Arab Action," has told AL-HAYAH that the recent events "were expected, and they will greatly affect Saddam." He ruled out the possibility of holding contacts with Husayn Kamil because he "is not much different from Saddam." Hasan al-'Alawi (a Ba'thist nationalist) stressed that Husayn Kamil "will remain isolated" from the opposition forces. He told AL-HAYAH that the defection of Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam Kamil to Jordan was the result of "a struggle for power not a struggle between the people and the regime. It was a struggle over shares of power within the family, with each one gripped by fear of a possible popular movement after the serious signals which came from al-Dulaym as well as fear of Saddam

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himself. So Husayn Kamil and his brother preferred to act ahead of possible developments."

He emphasized that Husayn Kamil's departure would not affect Saddam and that Kamil "did not come out in order to join the opposition, and I do not believe that the Iraqis want people like him. He will remain isolated in opposition circles. A man of the regime cannot become an opposition leader."

The spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution said in Damascus that what happened indicates that "the disputes have reached a dangerous level." He welcomed any development that would contribute to the downfall of President Saddam Husayn.

Defection Said To Herald Saddam's Imminent Downfall

MM1408125995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Bahr-al-'Ulum Warns Against Replacing Saddam With His Son-in-Law; al-Hakim Expects Repercussions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, member of the Presidential Council of the Iraqi National Congress [INC], which is opposed to President Saddam Husayn, has stated that "the serious developments which have erupted within the Iraqi ruling family in Baghdad" confirm "a major split in it and indicate a bloody power struggle." Referring to the fact that Staff General Husayn Kamil, Saddam's son-in-law, has taken refuge in Jordan, he said that "these changes, posing a threat to the regime, and this sudden defection confirm the imminent downfall of that regime, of that dictatorship and its pillars, who were the main cause of the current destruction, poverty, death, starvation, and persecution that have afflicted our homeland and our Iraqi brothers. Those people have fled to save their own skin and escape the inevitable end." That was a reference to the group which defected to Jordan with Saddam's son-in-law. In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, Bahr-al-'Ulum emphasized that "in these critical circumstances, the Iraqi opposition has a great responsibility to shoulder. It must be very cautious about statements made by that group which had, with Saddam, plotted the extermination of the Iraqi people and the destruction of Iraq which has been brought to a point of total collapse over a quarter of a century. When signs of the storm that would blow away this corrupt clique began to appear on the horizon, they, those pillars of that sectarian fascist regime, its henchmen and guardians on whose shoulders the regime was built, feigned concern for the people and the homeland and announced that they were joining the opposition for the purpose of changing the regime and bringing down the dictatorship."

He added: "The innocent blood of thousands of martyrs as well as hundreds of thousands of prisoners, detainees, and missing persons thrown into Saddam's deadly dungeons cry out to the Iraqi opposition's conscience and urge it not to be fooled by those people who, in acts of injustice and hostility, spilled so much Iraqi blood." He continued: "If international powers want to replace Saddam Husayn with the likes of Husayn Kamil, that would be no more than replacing one ugly face with another just like it."

Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], said: "We had expected the regime's circle to shrink because its head is a hostile entity that even the people closest to him cannot coexist with. That was evident recently in the dismissal of Watban," i.e. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Saddam's half-brother, from the Interior Ministry.

He expressed the view that "the situation in Iraq is likely to explode again now that Saddam has lost everything with nobody remaining on his side except (his two sons) 'Udayy and Qusayy, who have known nothing but tyranny."

Paper Criticizes Western Exaggeration of Defection

JN1508090595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has criticized the campaign of falsehood and deception launched by the Western media against Iraq. It has also criticized the Western media attempt to exaggerate matters and blow them out of proportion, taking advantage of the escape of traitor Husayn Kamil to harm Iraq and prolong the unjust embargo imposed on it.

In an article published today, the paper says observers of Western media, particularly the U.S. and British media, will realize the extent of falsehood with which these media tackle the issue of the escape of renegade Husayn Kamil, and their exaggeration of the incident, its causes and effects. They do so in an exposed attempt to delude gullible people through media pressure into believing that the situation in Iraq is very serious, as if Iraq is standing on only one leg. These media ignore the fact that Iraq is a state of firmly-established institutions and that the traitor was no more than an employee in this state and his responsibilities were limited, regardless of the title of his position.

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The paper adds: We in Iraq do not care who falls into the trap of these foreign media because the truth will soon be discovered. What the Western media are reiterating are mere wishful thinking on the part of those who will collapse before the wisdom and impregnability of the Iraqi people, who rally around the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Paper Says Hasan's Treason Not To Harm Revolution

JN1508091995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0629 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has said that the treason of renegade Husayn Kamil does not constitute a strategic harm to the revolution and the homeland, as was the case with previous treasons that faced the victorious march of the revolution led by President Saddam Husayn. The fate of this treason is the people's condemnation and the dustbin of history.

In an article under the headline "The March and Treason," published today, the newspaper said treason is a downward process away from patriotism, and it is a plunge into the agentry swamp of the foreigner. It added history of mankind, including our Arab history and the experiences of contemporary revolutions, contains treacherous actions as happened in the former Soviet Union, China, and Cuba.

It added that the revolutionary experiences are not expected to face paved and open roads without such actions. It shed light on the message President Saddam Husayn addressed to the Iraqi people last Friday and his emphasis that the honest nationalist does not like treachery and agentry because treachery means the loss of the right vision and abandonment of nationalist values. Therefore, it is a loss on earth and in the hereafter.

It said traitor Husayn Kamil deviated from the genuine experience, its principles, and the patriotic values by throwing himself in the swamp of treason, agentry, and theft. Therefore, he can never distort this historical experience.

The newspaper stressed that Husayn Kamil's treachery, his shallow dreams, and his lowly ethics gave the July revolution the strongest determination to continue the struggling march toward outright victory along the principles of the great Ba'th Party and the ideology of President Saddam Husayn.

The paper concluded by saying that if traitor and thief Husayn Kamil has reflected a suspicious image and a distorted example because he hit rock bottom, these treacherous actions are not a reason for losing confidence in the soundness of the march because this march will be stronger because of its hero leader Saddam Husayn and because of the love of his people for him. It emphasized that whenever the conspiracy and the treacherous actions increase, the revolution will move forward to its objectives and will strongly adhere to its slogans and principles.

Defector Described as 'Cog' in Big State 'Machine'

JN1508092595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has affirmed that the advancement of nations cannot be stopped by a renegade or a traitor, since the collective march is always capable of purging itself by discarding the trash, and this is how Iraq and its people have always been.

In an article published today, the paper says: Agents do appear in one form or another at major turning points in the history of nations, and some people are surprised. But this should not be the case. Tough situations produce men, because they are a proven test for testing real mettle and intentions on the ground of reality.

The paper adds: Traitor Husayn Kamil was no more than a cog in the big state machine. This cog has rusted and is no longer capable of playing its required role in the phase of steadfastness and the crossing. The fall of this cog should be understandable and need not be blown out of proportion, since the big machine will continue functioning without these small cogs.

AL-QADISIYAH explains: Giving this traitor more importance than he deserves is indicative of both deep treason and the ill intention of certain foreign quarters to use this treason against our homeland and people. We, Iraqis, will not be deceived by such hullabaloo, which will not pass without evoking a furtive smile or a shrug of the shoulder in ridicule.

Opposition Figure Says Hasan Rejected by Iraqis

NC1508072295 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Aug 95

[Interview with Samir Shakir, deputy leader of the Iraqi Democratic Party, in London, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome, Mr. Samir.

[Shakir] Thank you.

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[Abu-al-Majd] How do Iraqis view the defection of Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law and their wives, the daughters of Saddam?

[Shakir] We view it with optimism, for it shows the disintegration of the ruling regime in Iraq. To understand the reality of the regime, we have to imagine a Mafia family ruling a country. This family has started to disintegrate. The security of this family depends on the family itself. Now this family is disintegrating. This is why we believe it is the end.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will you meet with General Husayn Kamil, former minister in charge of military industrialization, who has fled to Jordan?

[Shakir] Before answering this question, we must first know who this defecting staff general is. This man has been a pillar of the regime. He was one of the people who participated in and contributed to all the crimes and calamities that have befallen Iraq. He is completely rejected both internally by the Iraqi people and externally by the Iraqis living in diaspora as a potential part of Iraq's future. I believe any party that deals with this person will doom itself to political death in the eyes of the Iraqi people. This is because he and Saddam Husayn are two faces of the same coin.

[Abu-al-Majd] Following this defection and the disintegration of Saddam Husayn's family, do you believe that Saddam will last in power?

[Shakir] I believe that the countdown for Saddam's fall has begun. Now he must be feeling isolated and feeling the heat from everyone, including his own family. What remains to be seen is the final mechanism to finish off this regime. We hope that this will be with as little damage to the Iraqi people as possible. We hope the change will serve the cause of the Iraqi people and their right to enjoy human rights—like all other peoples—and that the alternative will enjoy the confidence of all the people.

[Abu-al-Majd] What do you think prompted one so close to Saddam Husayn to flee at this particular time? What are the real reasons?

[Shakir] The nature of the ruling family, which I earlier likened to a Mafia family, is a special one. Nobody trusts anybody in this family, and he who stays until the end wins. Maybe Husayn Kamil and his brother felt the rope getting closer to their necks. They are not closer to Saddam Husayn than, for instance, 'Adnan Talfah, who is Saddam's cousin and brother-in-law. Saddam sacked him without hesitation. Another reason is that the Iraqi people's living conditions are deteriorating. The Iraqi people have become so fragmented and full of grief and suffering that they are like a people who cannot be ruled. There is no security inside Iraq; crime is extensive; the authority has no control in entire areas—such as in southern Iraq at night—and northern Iraq is already beyond its control. So the disintegration is not only within the family, but also throughout the state. Thus, we believe that just one spark in any Baghdad street could trigger the final revolution against this regime.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is your plan, as an Iraqi opposition, to save the people of Iraq, and do all the factions coordinate toward that end?

[Shakir] As you know, there is a broad alliance among the opposition forces, which is the Unified Iraqi National Congress. This groups various factions, including Kurds, Arabs, and people and organizations of various intellectual beliefs. Many of them have considerable leverage inside the country. This alliance operates under charters based on the need to introduce democracy, pluralism, rejection of dictatorship, and emphasis on economic affairs and future development after the change. This coalition operates inside and outside Iraq, at regional and international levels. It has considerable activity inside Iraq and has contacts with quarters that could have a role in changing the situation inside Iraq. We hope change will come through this alliance, to which we are a party.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you Mr. Samir Shakir.

[Shakir] Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Opposition Claims 10 High Officers Arrested

NC1408184595 London MBC Television in Arabic 1806 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi opposition in London today confirmed that President Saddam Husayn's forces have arrested a number of Iraqi officers, particularly those who come from Tikrit. In an interview with MBC Television, Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati said that military reinforcements are now deployed around the Presidential Palace and the radio and television buildings in Baghdad.

[Begin recording] [al-Bayyati] As a matter of fact, we received information today that 10 senior officers ranging in rank from lieutenant colonel to major general were arrested. All these officers come from Tikrit and are considered to be close to Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan recently. Among these are Major General Khaz'al Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, Major General 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abd-al-'Aziz Jum'ah, and other officers with the ranks of brigadier general, colonel, or lieutenant colonel, along with dozens of other officers who have been detained for the same reason.

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[Tannuri] Are similar things happening in other areas in Iraq?

[Al-Bayyati] Yes, a campaign has been launched in Baghdad to expel some Republican Guard officers. Republican Guard units have been redeployed. Retired Major General 'Ali 'Abbas Isma'il has been recalled to take up a new position leading the Republican Guard. The units guarding the radio and television buildings have been reinforced. The units along the Baghdad-al-Ramadi highway have been reinforced. Some Saddam Fedayyen forces have been sent to these areas.

[Tannuri] Thank you, Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati. [end recording]

'Aziz Offer of Arms Information to UN Viewed

NC1408155995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The political observer of the Voice of Iraqi People has commented on Tariq 'Aziz' statement that the Baghdad regime has decided to turn over to the UN special commission on Iraq's disarmament and to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] information that Husayn Kamil Hasan had withheld. The political observer said: Every regime in the world takes orders from the person at the top of the ruling hierarchy. If Tariq 'Aziz' statement that Husayn Kamil Hasan hid such important information from the UN and IAEA committees were true, it would mean that Saddam Husayn, who is known to rule Iraq with an iron fist, is only a front for the regime and the weakest link in the government. But this is absurd.

The observer added: The truth is that the blow that Husayn Kamil Hasan, a strong symbol of the regime, has dealt to Saddam Husayn was fatal. It has shaken the regime's higher circles, who fear that Husayn Kamil may reveal secrets that the regime had deliberately withheld on instructions of its chief. Those circles therefore decided to pull the carpet out from under Hasan's feet and to disclose all the facts.

Thus, Saddam's regime has shown that it lied all along and deceived the United Nations, thus prolonging the international blockade against Iraq. Our Iraqi people have suffered the destructive consequences of this blockade, so much so that the ordinary Iraqi citizen now earns his bread by selling his essential possessions, from which he can barely meet his daily needs. Our people are being subjected to starvation and disease while the chief and figureheads of the regime are living in paradise.

Opposition Discusses 'Arms Secrets' Announcement

NC1408110695 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 14 (AFP)—Iraq has admitted it "lied" to the United Nations on its weapons programs and may have ruined any chance of ending economic sanctions, opposition members said Monday [14 August].

Baghdad was too late when it announced Sunday that it will reveal all arms secrets which it accused a defector, Husayn Kamil Hasan, of withholding, the former head of Iraq's military intelligence, General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, said.

"It will have effects contrary to what Baghdad wants," which is an end to the oil and trade sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he told AFP from Damascus.

Al-Samarra'i, who defected last year, said "the initiative means that the regime lied to the United Nations" when it told UN weapons experts earlier this month that it had issued a final report on its germ warfare program.

This creates a "credibility problem," he said.

However, Iraq did not have much choice, al-Samarra'i added. "Baghdad has taken this initiative because it has nothing to lose. If it doesn't reveal the secrets, Husayn Kamil will."

'Aziz Al-yan, a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group for the opposition, also said the announcement would backfire.

"Iraq took this decision to speed up the lifting of the embargo, but this will not happen," Al-yan told AFP when contacted in London.

"The Security Council will realize how dishonest Iraq is," because it was forced by events to disclose the information, said Al-yan, who is in charge of the INC's relations with the United Nations.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said Iraq has asked Rolf Ekeus and Hans Blix, the heads of UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency, to visit Baghdad urgently to obtain the weapons secrets. [passage omitted]

Al-Samarra'i said 'Aziz's announcement could also "fuel the discontent of the Iraqi people" who have borne the brunt of the sanctions.

"The people will discover that the regime was not sincere when it said it was doing everything to end the sanctions," he said.

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Opposition Figure on Bid To Disclose Arms Information

NC1308193195 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, member of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, by 'Awn in the studio—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Awn] Baghdad has made a hasty offer to give new information on its armament program. Do you believe it hopes to hold Husayn Kamil Hasan responsible, or to save Saddam Husayn's regime?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] This haste by the Iraqi regime is no surprise to us. The Iraqi regime has grown accustomed to making concessions when it comes under pressure. This haste is intended on the one hand to minimize Husayn Kamil's defection and to downplay the importance of his being a core member in the ruling regime, and on the other hand to forestall him in contacting the concerned international parties, especially the United Nations, over this issue. Baghdad is certainly trying to do what it can to save the regime.

['Awn] In your view, will the opening of the arms file delay lifting the sanctions on Iraq?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] I believe this depends on the information Husayn Kamil offers and whether it reveals new plans for arms and weapons depots and programs. If the disclosure contains new information that needs to be studied and investigated by the competent UN agencies, I believe it will take a long time.

['Awn] How will the opposition deal with this issue?

['Abd-al-Jabbar] I think it is premature to discuss this issue in view of its sensitivity and complexity. This issue must be considered carefully both because Husayn Kamil was a core member in the regime and a participant in most of its past decisions, and because of the importance of his defection, which will weaken the regime.

['Awn] Thank you.

INC Sees 'Indications' of Attack Against Kurds

BR1408142695 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Aug 95 p 13

["Exclusive" report on interview with INC leader Ahmad Shabali by Marian Hens in London; date not given—"A Hard Blow for the Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—"Saddam Husayn is preparing one or another mad act." This statement was made in London by Ahmad Shabali, the leader of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), one of the main exiled groups in opposition to the Iraqi regime.

"We have indications that Saddam may launch an offensive against the Kurdish zones in northern Iraq," Shabali said.

The opposition leader called the defection of the dictator's sons-in-law "a devastating blow for the regime," but he does not think Husayn's fall is imminent. "Saddam is still in control. For some time now there has been speculation about his downfall, but this is only another step in weakening the Iraqi regime, which will collapse sooner or later," Shabali said. He ruled out a potential coup and called for stepping up internal and external pressure as the only way to overthrow the Iraqi dictator.

The INC leader denied that defector Husayn Kamil, who was responsible for Iraq's military industry, already had been in touch with opposition groups in exile to organize "radical changes" in the country.

Shabali said that he is "willing to discuss this possibility," even though "Kamil collaborated with Saddam's terrorist acts and that he is being sought for crimes against humanity."

According to Shabali, the rumors that Saddam's oldest son 'Udayy (the chief of the Republican Guard) could become the real leader of Iraq are unfounded. The INC leader believes that Qusayy, Saddam's younger son, who controls the regime's security services, has more power.

PUK Troops Reportedly Repulse KDP Attack

NC1208162295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the announcement of the initial agreement to resolve the disputes and differences between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], a force belonging to the KDP launched an attack last evening against the fortified trenches of the PUK peshmergas in the area of Walasin near (Shahrahud). The PUK forces repulsed the attack and succeeded in defeating the KDP force, forcing it to fall back.

In another development, a reliable source has told us that the [KDP] party forces arrested a number of citizens in the city of Shaqlawah recently. They were taken to prison in the city of Aqrah.

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PUK Radio Claims KDP Forces Bombard Rawandoz

NC1408154595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The daily KURDISTAN NWAY has confirmed that gunmen from the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] bombarded Rawandoz city with mortar and machine-gun fire last evening. A house burned down and one Kurdistan Communist Party peshmerga was killed in the bombardment. The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan forces did not return fire.

Kurdish Parties Issue Draft Peace Agreement

LD1108143795 London Iraqi National Congress Press Release in English 1120 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dublin, 11 Aug — Under the auspices of the United States, the two main Kurdish parties of Iraq — the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] — held talks in Drogheda, Ireland, from August 9- 11, 1995, aimed at resolving differences between the two parties. The Iraqi National Congress also participated. The government of Turkey sent observers.

The two parties pledged to maintain the ceasefire and to strive to make it permanent. They also agreed to cease media attacks, to respect the rights of one another's followers, and to release all detainees being held by the parties during the recent hostilities.

The KDP and PUK have agreed to continue talks aimed at finalizing a peace agreement. The elements of such a peace agreement will include the following points:

— Irbil city will be demilitarized.

— A neutral commission will be formed under Iraqi National Congress (INC) auspices.

— Forces in the area surrounding Irbil city will be reduced and collected at sites to be designated.

— No later than 48 hours following the certified demilitarization of Irbil, customs and all revenues collected by the parties will be collected and deposited in bank accounts under the supervision of a neutral commission in the name of the regional authority.

— An accounting will be conducted of all revenues under the control of the parties since May 1, 1994.

— There will be a return of the legitimacy of the regional authority through the reconvening of the elected regional parliament within 48 hours of the certified demilitarization of Irbil.

— The regional parliament will work to form in a speedy fashion a new wide-based administration for the northern governorates, including other parties and ethnic communities.

— All of the above points will be carried out within the territorial integrity o Iraq.

— These points will also take into consideration the legitimate security concerns of Turkey.

Kurdish Factions Said Adhering to Cease-Fire

NC1208202595 Paris AFP in English 1737 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 12 (AFP)—The two main rival Kurdish factions in north Iraq said on Saturday [11 August] they have respected the ceasefire decided at talks this week in Drogheda, Ireland.

"No clashes have taken place and the media campaigns have also been halted," Salah Rashid, an official in the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) told AFP by telephone from Bonn.

"The ceasefire is in force on the ground," confirmed Fawzi al- Atrushi of the London office of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK).

Rashid said the two sides had begun releasing prisoners, although al-Atrushi had no information on the subject. The PUK says both sides are holding a total of 100-200 prisoners.

The two rivals, whose conflict has left more than 2,000 dead since May 1994, agreed to make permanent a ceasefire after three days of talks in Ireland sponsored by the United States.

The two officials said the two sides would meet within three weeks in an undecided location to work out details on the demilitarization of Irbil, the "capital" of Iraqi Kurdistan controlled by the PUK since December.

They will also look to solve the question of border taxes collected by the PDK.

The two sides agreed at the Drogheda talks to solve both questions.

The PDK and PUK took control of northern Iraq in 1991 under cover of a "no-fly zone" protecting against air strikes from Baghdad imposed by the United States, Great Britain and France.

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Paper Comments on U.S. Kurdish Reconciliation Effort

MM1408091095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Aug 95 p 11

[Editorial: "American Reconciliation of Iraqi Kurds"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two main Kurdish factions in the protected zones of northern Iraq started their reconciliation meetings yesterday in Ireland, with American mediators trying to remove the disagreements that led to bloody confrontations which lasted all of last year and resulted in thousands of dead and wounded.

Iraqi Government and opposition circles are following the developments of these meetings and their results. And while Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Unified Iraqi National Congress, is "praying" with all the opposition factions in Damascus and London for a successful outcome of the meetings, the central government in Baghdad is betting on their failure, because success would consolidate the American hold over the opposition and return some life to its frozen arteries as a result of the small disagreements over money, leadership and distribution of posts. The Kurdish infighting, which all local and outside mediations have failed to contain, has uncovered the vastness of the differences between the main factions under the leadership of Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, the fragility of the framework of the National Congress that includes them along with some other minor opposition factions, and its failure to be an ideal alternative to the Iraqi regime should American pressures succeed in changing the current regime in Baghdad.

If the opposition parties blame the central government in Baghdad for its lack of democracy and continuous human rights violations, the actions of Kurdish parties in the north including killing, pillaging, and torture of their opponents would put them in the same category as the regime and would make any talk of freedom and democracy on their part empty of any meaning or credibility.

The direct American intervention to bring the two major parties of northern Iraq to the reconciliation table has confirmed the fragility of their claims of independence and nonalignment with foreigners and has cast doubts on every slogan they would utter regarding "patriotism" in any project for the future of Iraq. How could the Iraqi people in the north or the south accept the rule of Kurdish or Arab opposition leadership that derives its legitimacy and reason for existence from a U.S. Administration bent on imposing a starvation siege on Iraq and working toward its disintegration and depriving it of all elements of power?

The problem of the Kurdish people rests with their leaders who refuse to learn from the painful experiences of the past and persist in repeating the same mistakes by becoming a tool in the hands of the regional and international powers plotting to weaken Iraq, to strip it of its wealth, and to prevent it from playing any leadership part in the region.

The United States, which set human rights aside during the Turkish armored invasion of northern Iraq to track down and liquidate the bases of the Kurdish Workers Party, cannot be too concerned about the Kurds and their rights, unless these would consider themselves first class Kurds whilst those Kurds of Turkey would be 10th class Kurds and hence would deserve to be killed and wiped out.

What is distressing is that Mas'ud Barzani who was his father's right arm is fully aware of the American intentions regarding the Kurds. He surely must remember how well Henry Kissinger played the Kurdish card to exhaust Iraq, how he cast it aside when he achieved his goal, and how he turned a deaf ear to all past promises of self- determination. The current American reconciliation efforts are no different from the previous ones, and any formula that could be adopted in the Ireland conference could perhaps achieve a temporary success in halting the fighting, but it will not succeed in putting an end to the disagreements and in reassuring the Kurdish people who have suffered more from their leaders than from the Baghdad regime.

The ideal Kurdish solution is in the framework of a strong, unified, and independent Iraq, whereas the American solutions are a recipe for increased fighting and human and material bleeding. The experiences of all the nations that have opted for these choices bear witness to this, starting with Vietnam, then Somalia, and finally Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kurdish Radio Urges Peace, Overthrow of Regime

NC1408180695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has consistently believed that the establishment of peace in Kurdistan is essential for the survival of the democratic experiment. As part of its sound thinking, the PUK proposed numerous peace plans and overtures during the regrettable internecine fighting with the Kurdistan Democratic Party to normalize the situation in Kurdistan. The PUK also agreed to all the initiatives and endeavors by the Kurdish, Iraqi, regional, and international parties. The peace initiatives that brother Jalal

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Talabani has put forward every now and then were part of the PUK's persistent efforts to reconcile the views of the two rival parties in Kurdistan and to establish a comprehensive and fair peace and safeguard the democratic experiment from hostile parties.

Currently there is a relatively stable situation in Iraqi Kurdistan in the wake of the Dublin meetings between the PUK and the KDP. The PUK continues to adhere to its constructive stance, believing that safeguarding the democratic experiment and reactivating the Kurdistan parliament and the regional government must be put before all other considerations.

In a courageous step that demonstrated the PUK's sound stance and firm belief in peace, the PUK has withdrawn a considerable part of its forces from the front line with the KDP. In our view, this shows the PUK's desire to achieve peace in Kurdistan and normalize the situation. Withdrawing forces from the front line with the KDP is yet another peaceful gesture by the PUK, particularly in the wake of the Dublin meetings between the two parties and at a time when the conflict within the ruling family in Baghdad has begun to undermine the dictatorial regime and push it toward an inevitable collapse and fall.

Current events in Baghdad require all parties that are concerned about the march to democracy in Kurdistan to expedite and unify efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in Kurdistan and to invigorate the joint struggle against the dictatorial authorities. All indications are that the fall of the dictatorial regime in Baghdad must not be postponed this time.

Former Intelligence Chief on Opposition Conflicts

JN1408100595 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 7-13 Aug 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of Iraqi military intelligence, has strongly criticized Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq and Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Kudistan Democratic Party, saying the former does not uphold the Iraqi national identity and the latter deals secretly with the regime of President Saddam Husayn. This is why Barzani declined to attend the plenary meeting of opposition parties called by al-Hakim in Damascus and preferred to remain outside the Unified Iraqi National Congress, he said.

Al-Samarra'i told AL-WASAT in Damascus that he supports "all national trends which work for the overthrow of President Saddam Husayn and the salvation of the Iraqi people," adding that "any trend which does not have this characteristic or which displays extremist characteristics cannot possibly help us get rid of Saddam." Asked about the reasons for his refusal to meet with al- Hakim when the Supreme Assembly raised a national slogan different from the slogans raised during the March 1991 uprising, al-Samarra'i said: "We say that we are in agreement without meeting with him. However, If matters call for a meeting, we will be ready for that. But, our first intention is to raise the slogan which will preserve the Iraqi national identity for all of us from the north to the south; the slogan of: Religion is for God and the homeland is for all." Al-Samarra'i criticized al-Hakim for raising the slogan of establishing an Islamic state in Iraq on the pattern of Iran, saying: "He wants an Islamic state similar to Iran."

Asked his opinion about al-Hakim's position on the March uprising, al-Samarra'i said: I was director of military intelligence at the time. It was clear that one of the reasons for the failure of the uprising was public rejection of sectarian slogans. Some people raised pictures of Khomeyni and al-Hakim as well as the flag of the Iranian republic. I assure you this was one of the main reasons for the failure of the uprising, because true patriots in northern, central, and southern Iraq took up arms in defense of the Iraqi identity under the slogan of: "Saddam Will Go; We Need to Preserve Iraq's Identity First."

Al-Samarra'i strongly criticized Barzani's behavior, saying it was less than was hoped for. He explained that Barzani used to head a bloc or a trend within the Unified Iraqi National Congress and that "he feigns cooperation with the opposition, but works secretly with the regime." He also observed that Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Kurdistan Patriotic Union, cannot agree with the regime on strategy or tactics.

On the National Congress, the former chief of Iraqi intelligence affirmed that he refuses to join the congress "but when it adopts realistic and practical slogans which will help guarantee Iraq's identity and unity, I will never hesitate to join." Al-Samarra'i referred to the opposition's association with foreign forces and the existence of "some trends within the National Congress which work according to the U.S. option, although they may not be convinced of it. Ahmad al-Jalabi works according to the U.S. trend, but he has no other choice. He took several positive steps and fought against Saddam." Al-Samarra'i added that Iraq "faces two problems: First, Saddam's tyranny; and second, regional conflicts. Every side wants future Iraq to be

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with it against the others. I urge these states, especially Turkey, to deal with the Iraqi people and link its interests with Iraq, because Saddam will go sooner or later, and the Iraqi people will take their revenge. They will deal with states on the basis of their current position, taking into consideration the change in stands."

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Rabin Notes Oslo B Advantages in Security Sphere

TA1508112695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking at the Labor Knesset faction today, Mr. Rabin enumerated the advantages Israel will derive from the interim agreement, most notably in the sphere of security. Israel will retain the overriding responsibility for security, including the war on terror and on terrorist threats — namely, terror-preventing activities. He stressed that Israel will benefit in the sphere of security mainly in Area B, where the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be able to conduct hot pursuits.

Mr. Rabin stressed that the emerging accord makes no reference to withdrawal, and that all the talk by his opponents talk about withdrawal to 1967 borders is sheer drivel. Mr. Rabin added that the IDF has already started building new bases in Judaea and Samaria that will serve to enhance the safety of Israeli residents and enhance coordination with the Palestinian Police.

The prime minister's remarks were reported by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

Pledges To Submit Accord for Knesset Approval

TA1508104195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister promises to submit Oslo B to the Knesset for approval, and if such approval is not given, the accord will not be valid and will not be implemented. However, this will be done only after the accord is concluded and signed by the two sides. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir notes that Mr. Rabin made these remarks at today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The prime minister sees the Taba Declaration as a mere declaration of principles that does not require approval.

Mr. Rabin revealed that last week Secretary of State Christopher made an attempt to renew Israel-Syria contacts, but failed.

Speaking about Jerusalem, he said two police stations would be established in the eastern part of the city to deal with Arab residents and to prevent Palestinian Authority personnel from tackling police matters in that part of the city.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 15 August includes a related report by political correspondent Udi Segal, adding: "Referring to the situation in Iraq, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said it is doubtful that Iraq will act against Jordan. Rabin said this issue is related to Jordan. Although Israel has a treaty with Jordan, this is an inter-Arab issue."]

The prime minister is now meeting with the Labor faction in the Knesset.

This afternoon the Knesset plenum will hold a special session during the recess at the opposition's demand. The session will address the opposition's requirement that the government submit the Taba Declaration to the Knesset. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu will present his faction's position, while Foreign Minister Peres will respond on behalf of the government. The session will open with the swearing-in ceremony of new Likud Knesset Member Yosi Ahime'ir, who will replace the late Hayim Kaufman.

Special Knesset Session Convenes on Oslo B Accord

TA1108112695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss is convening the plenum on 15 August to discuss motions submitted by Labor, Meretz, and the Likud.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Likud requested a special Knesset session during the recess to discuss the Oslo B agreement, while Labor and Meretz wished to discuss the agreement, as well as what they termed the right wing's attempts to organize a civil uprising.

Rabin on Peace Borders; Peres on Cabinet Vote

TA1408060095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel will not go back to the 1967 borders and that it must control the Jordan Valley and the slopes of Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister also said Israel would hold on to areas around Jerusalem. He spoke to the 81st National Hadassah Convention in Jerusalem.

[Begin Rabin recording] Peace between us and a Palestinian entity next to us, but by no means to return to the pre-Six-Day-War lines. First and foremost, to maintain Jerusalem united, even a little bit more than that. [applause]

For us Jerusalem must remain united under Israel's sovereignty, our capital and the heart of the Jewish people. [applause]

Second, to make sure that Israel will have defensible boundaries there have to be on the Jordan River, in the Jordan Valley, on the slopes of the Judaea and Samaria hills. To defend Israel against external military threats by Arab or Muslim countries has to be done there, and not 50 km closer to Netanya and Tel Aviv.

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[applause] These should be the defense lines of Israel. [end recording]

Rabin said Israel would stay in Hebron to protect the Jews living there, despite the heavy military cost for a small number of residents.

The prime minister was heckled during his speech as he and Foreign Minister Peres were presented the Henrietta Szold Award for their contribution to the people and the State of Israel. After the event, Foreign Minister Peres stopped short of repeating the prime minister's call at the cabinet for the resignation of any minister who spoke out against the Taba deal reached with the Palestinians. Peres told reporter David Ze'ev he did not believe the criticism from within hurt the government.

[Begin recording] [Peres] I don't think so. I think it is a very impressive majority. Fifteen members voted for, just one was against, two abstained. I mean, it couldn't be better in a democratic system.

[Ze'ev] Would you agree that these people, the people who voiced opposition to it, should consider resigning?

[Peres] Well, I think that with the decision, they will follow the rule of the majority. [end recording]

In a television interview last night, Minister Ehud Baraq, who had spoken out and abstained yesterday, said he would honor the cabinet decision.

Rabin Says 'Arafat Jihad Remarks 'Not Wise'

TA1508144495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to the Knesset plenum this afternoon, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the government does not have to justify its actions and does not fear false hysteria or an alleged rift among the Israeli people. This is a strong government, Peres said, which is leading toward a new relationship with the Palestinians. Peres said Binyamin Netanyahu has no serious proposal on how to continue the political process with the Palestinians. You do not say with whom we will negotiate or on what, Peres asserted. The Likud, Peres said, is being dragged along blindly by the Jewish residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

At the conclusion of the debate, all the Knesset factions unanimously decided to pursue the discussion in the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. This was reported by correspondent Hayim Hecht.

Earlier, at today's session of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he takes a very grave view of Yasir 'Arafat's recorded statements in the Gaza Strip in which the PLO chairman spoke about continuing the jihad. It was not wise, Rabin said and expressed the hope that 'Arafat had taken note of Israel's reaction to the matter. Responding to a remark by Knesset Member Beni Begin, the prime minister admitted that there had been some flaws in the way this information was brought to his attention. The intelligence services are looking into the matter at this time, Rabin said.

Likud Faction, Labor MK's Object to Accord

TA1108094795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Tal Shahaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud is demanding that the Knesset be summoned for a special debate on the Peres-'Arafat agreement.

At Likud Leader Binyamin Netanyahu's instructions, faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav last night notified the Knesset speaker that the Likud is demanding that the Knesset be convened at once, even though it is currently in recess. The Likud faction has not yet submitted to the speaker the 30 signatures required to call a special session during recess because it is awaiting the outcome of the meeting between Peres and 'Arafat.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 11 August reports that "the Likud Knesset faction is submitting 30 signatures to the Knesset speaker in a demand to convene a special session of the plenum on Sunday, 13 August, to discuss the 'Arafat-Peres agreement. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu demands that the government reveal all the details of the agreement to the public.

["The coalition is also seeking to convene a special plenum session during the summer recess in order to discuss what it describes as the danger of a civil uprising and the right-wing's incitement which could undermine the rule of law."]

A statement issued by the Likud notes that "the Peres-'Arafat agreement is a realization of the PLO's phased plan to establish a Palestinian state under the Peres-Rabin-Aloni-Sarid aegis."

Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Matza stated yesterday that the Likud stands by "the settlers fighting for their homes." At the same time, he added, "anarchy and a paralysis of the country through illegal actions within the boundaries of the State of Israel is untenable. The Likud's protest actions are solely directed against the government, and not against the army or the police."

Criticism about the expected agreement has also come from Labor's own ranks, with MK's Avigdor Qahalani

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and 'Imanu'el Zismann threatening not to support the government's moves pertaining to the Oslo B agreement. They are asking to be allowed to speak their minds in party forums before the plan being discussed in Taba — which they believe will reignite the intifadah and terror — is finalized.

In a polite letter they sent to the prime minister yesterday, Qahalani and Zismann caution that they feel they will once again be put to the test in a Knesset vote. "We plead with you from the bottoms of our hearts: Try to listen to other voices within our party, before you put us to the test of the vote," they write.

The meaning of Qahalani's and Zismann's letter is that Rabin currently enjoys a narrow majority of only 61 MK's who support the Oslo B agreement (42 Labor MK's without Qahalani and Zismann, 12 MK's of Meretz, 2 of YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], and 5 Arabs) — or just 56 Jewish supporters.

West Bank Redeployment Timetable Outlined

TA1308111495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 95 p A2

[Report by correspondent Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following is the timetable for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank:

September 1995:

— Signing of the interim accord at least 22 days before elections for the Palestinian council are held (tentative date for the elections: end of December 1995 - beginning of January 1996)

— Area A (Urban): IDF withdrawal from six West Bank cities — Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Nabulus, Ramallah, and Bethlehem (note: the evacuation of IDF forces from Ramallah and Bethlehem will be accomplished only after bypass roads for these cities are paved. If this is not done by the date stipulated for the evacuation of the IDF from West Bank cities, the IDF will redeploy in these two cities only in anticipation of elections in the territories, but will not completely evacuate them).

Transfer of civil powers.

Redeployment in Hebron (note: the problem of redeployment in Hebron has not been solved so far. It is assessed that a special status will be accorded this city and that the IDF will not fully withdraw from it. Some redeployment will be carried out by 22 days before the elections).

— Area B (Rural): The Palestinian Authority [PA] is to receive civil responsibility for 420 West Bank villages, in addition to between 25-30 police stations and the redeployment of Palestinian police forces in the area. The overriding security responsibility will remain in Israel's hands.

— Area C (all other areas): This area will remain under sole Israeli responsibility, as today.

March 1996 (three months after elections to the Palestinian council):

— Area B: Palestinian police are to receive authorization for free movement on West Bank roads on which no Israelis travel, subject to the approval of the DCO [District Coordination and Cooperation Office].

May 1996:

— Beginning of the negotiations over the permanent arrangement.

June 1996:

— Area C: Transfer of all civil powers — except for land powers — to the PA in all of this area. First stage of the FRD (further redeployment). In the area evacuated during this stage the PA will receive the identical powers it has received in Areas A and B. The size of this area has still not been decided and will be determined by Israel.

October-November 1996:

— Elections in Israel.

January 1997:

— Area C: Second stage of the FRD. The PA will receive additional land powers in areas to be evacuated by the IDF, the size of which has still not been determined.

June 1997 (note: the Palestinians demand that the redeployment in the West Bank be completed no later than February 1997, and the issue is yet to be decided):

— Area C: Completion of IDF redeployment in the entire West Bank.

1999: Completion of the negotiations and the signing of the permanent arrangement (according to the Oslo accord's timetable).

Islamic Movement Leader on Election Plans

MM1508100995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Tariq al-Mumani in Amman: "Darwish: The Islamic Movement in Israel Permits Its Members To

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Nominate Themselves for the Elections Within Arab Lists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel has reiterated that the movement will contest the Israeli Knesset elections, which will take place toward the middle of next year, and will give its members the freedom to nominate themselves on the Arab lists participating in these elections. He pointed out that the sons of the movement "will only vote for Arab candidates and not for Israeli candidates."

The Islamic Movement's President 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, who is now on a visit to Jordan, was speaking at a press conference he held in the Jordanian capital. He called on the Arab currents to form one unified list which would give them a better chance of success than if they were scattered among several lists. He added that his movement has been exerting intensive efforts in this regard, at the request of a number of Arab parties.

He said: "The Islamic Movement of the Palestine of 1948 has been mediating between the Palestinian National Authority, which is led by Yasir 'Arafat, and the opposition forces, headed by the Hamas Movement, which is led by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, with a view to finding a basis for dialogue away from clashes for the sake of building a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

He added: "Some non-Arab quarters do not want accord in the Palestinian house, and they are trying to drag it into a collision in which blood would be shed so that the Palestine question would die again for 50 more years." He pointed out that he is convinced that such a collision would be impossible.

Darwish quoted Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the shaykh of the Palestinian Intifadah, whom he visited recently in one of the Israeli detention camps, as saying: "Tell the Palestinians that the shedding of Palestinian blood is prohibited...immediate Palestinian dialogue is an incumbent duty...and cooperation for building Palestine and the one homeland is the divine precept of the present day."

The president of the Islamic Movement, who holds an Israeli passport, stated that "the Arab nation is in dire need of the efforts of the Islamists and the opposition as much as it is in dire need of the efforts of governments." He added: "Reconciliation between the governments and the opposition movements is an immediate necessity in the Arab homeland for the sake of the homelands." He pointed out that clashes between the two sides would only squander the capabilities of the nation.

He stressed the need for all to accept that the opposition has as much right as governments to express its views within the bounds of the law and constitution and away from violence. He added: The governments have the right to be forgiven for [any failure of] their endeavors and both governments and opposition groups enjoy complete sound judgment."

He pointed out that he does not accept the method of branding people as infidels or traitors, saying: "I do not accept the method of branding any side as infidel or traitor or leveling charges against it...everyone who permits himself to indulge in such branding or accusation against any side then gives others too the right to judge him and brand him with atheism and treason...the idea of branding others as traitors or as infidels must be wiped out of our arena."

With regard to his attitude toward the peace process, he [Darwish] said: "No Arab or Muslim in the world would reject a just peace which would restore rights to their owners." He pointed out that the conflict between the protagonists and the antagonists was not over the principle of peace "but over the way each one of them understands the nature of peace, with each side interpreting it according to its own views."

He added that "Islamic thought, both in the old days and now, calls for courtesy between the Arabs and their enemies, and consequently the peace process and the accords are the very essence of courtesy." He asserted that temporary agreements are better than permanent agreements, as this would give future generations the opportunity to re-discuss and develop these agreements, and so eliminate the spots of tension. He cited in support of this view the statement made by Imam Abu Hanifah [one of the four doctrinaire Imams in Islamic jurisprudence] that courtesy should not exceed 20 years.

'Abdallah Nimr Darwish warned the strong powers of the consequences of imposing humiliating or submissive agreements on any weak side, saying: "The strong powers should not impose humiliating agreements on the weak countries, because the day such agreements are signed, the region would be signing a frightful war." He pointed out in this regard that the Allied countries which signed the Versailles Treaty, which was humiliating for Germany, "were the ones that signed the legitimacy of the emergence of barbaric Nazism." He added: "So that you may secure the agreement of the future generations, make sure that the agreement is honorable for both sides."

The leader of the Islamic Movement launched an overwhelming attack against the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, considering him to be the main cause of the Arab defeat in the 1967 war. He said

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that "the aftertaste of the 1967 war was bitter and the defeat was shocking...for we had prepared ourselves for victory in the light of what we used to hear of broadcasts over Radio of Voice of the Arabs in Egypt about the al-Zafir and al-Qahir missiles and the expression 'feel hungry, O you fish,' which the well-known Egyptian commentator Ahmad Said used to blur out in his broadcasts, something that placed us in a psychological state making us believe that victory was inevitable and that there is no chance for defeat...but the result was the setback."

He added: "Some Arab leaders were aware of the true condition of the Arabs and that they lacked preparation. The Arabs entered the war without conviction despite the fact that they knew the outcome of the war beforehand. But they could not stay away from entering the war for fear of being branded as traitors by the other leaders and of being blamed for the Arab loss of the war had they not joined it."

He said that he believes the 1967 war unmasked all those who used to say that they were capable of settling the battle overnight, pointing out that the war gave the Palestinians the ability to coordinate and rally their struggles after they had been dispersed by the 1948 war, "a matter which gave a push forward to the Palestine question."

Darwish added that the Arabs of 1948 and 1967 "have begun to open themselves to the Arab and Islamic world and to Mecca, and so they were embraced by the Arab and Islamic culture. So imagine what would be the case if we (the Arabs of 1948) were to open ourselves to our Arab and Islamic world through a peace in which the Arab and Islamic world would revel and which would be an honorable peace and not an imposed capitulation."

Hebron Mayor: We Are Sorry To Be Left Out

NC1108101695 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Hebron, West Bank, Aug 11 (AFP)— Rival Jewish and Arab claims to Hebron have turned the occupied city into the main flashpoint on the West Bank and a stumbling block to the spread of Palestinian autonomy across the territory.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah renewed calls Friday [11 August] for the evacuation of the 400 die-hard settlers who live in a fortified compound in the heart of the town, protected by 2,000 Israeli soldiers. [passage omitted]

"We are very sorry and very sad to be left out," al-Natshah told AFP. "Hebron should be evacuated by Israel along with the other cities.

"We think this means that the people of Hebron will not be able to vote in the elections and if they do not vote the elections cannot be democratic.

"The people were closely following the negotiations in the hope of an end to our suffering."

Al-Natshah and his council believe the only way to peace, particularly since a settler slaughtered 29 Moslems in Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs in February 1994, is to remove the Jewish presence.

He wants Palestinian police to protect Moslems at the tomb, which is holy to both faiths. [passage omitted]

Rabin's Office Issues Statement on Orient House

TA1508092895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Orient House visits by foreign dignitaries up to and including the post of foreign minister are acceptable, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was quoted as telling yesterday's meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, however, said he understands that Israel will not permit the visit of foreign ministers to Orient House. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said after the meeting that Rabin backs his position that Orient House must be closed. However, the Prime Minister's Office issued a statement that was less emphatic about Rabin's support.

The ministerial committee ordered law and security agencies to enforce laws limiting the activities of the PA [Palestinian Authority] and PLO in Jerusalem, the statement said.

"With regard to the activities of Orient House, the justice minister, police minister, attorney-general, and mayor are to meet to discuss the possible legal measures to be taken to ensure the law is upheld," the statement said.

Attorney-General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir, who did not attend the meeting, has sharply opposed Olmert's attempts to shut Orient House, and has reportedly not changed his position. [passage omitted]

Approves Action Against Orient House

TA1408085895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the prime minister gave Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert full approval to

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take immediate steps to stop all illegal activities at Orient House pertaining to the building's designated purpose as well as to halt building violations there. This was reported at a meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs.

Following the meeting, Mayor Ehud Olmert told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that he demanded that Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin's visit to Orient House be prohibited.

The mayor said Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had announced that Sahlin had promised that her visit to Orient House would last no longer than 10 minutes.

Our correspondent notes that at the meeting it was also reported that Police Minister Moshe Shahal may use his authority to prevent the Swedish deputy prime minister's visit out of fear that it could generate tension at the site.

Accord Reached on 'Courtesy Call'

TA1408160295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Mona Sahlin is slated to arrive in Israel on 20 August for a visit that is scheduled to include a brief visit to Orient House. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in intensive contacts conducted by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' bureau with Mrs. Sahlin, it was agreed to define her visit to Orient House, which will be very brief, as a courtesy call rather than a political visit. An announcement to this effect will be issued in Jerusalem and Stockholm.

Our correspondent adds that during her visit to Israel, the Swedish deputy prime minister is slated to meet with Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres.

Palestinian Offices Given 2 Weeks To Close

TA1408103195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs discussed the activities of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Jerusalem. Police Minister Moshe Shahal instructed the police commissioner to summon for questioning PA officials who introduce themselves as members of Jerusalem's shadow municipality. They will be interrogated on suspicion of false representation and membership in an illegal organization.

It was also decided in the meeting that Minister Shahal would warn Palestinian bodies operating offices in Jerusalem which conduct illegal activities that if they are not closed within two weeks the police will take measures against them.

It was also reported that Minister Shahal gave instructions to set up two police stations in East Jerusalem to reinforce the struggle against the Palestinians who are planning to establish faits accompli in the city.

Closure on Gaza Strip Extended Until 16 Aug

TA1408173895 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on the Gaza Strip will not be lifted tomorrow as originally planned. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] decided to extend the closure until early Wednesday morning [16 August].

Border Policeman Hurt by Roadside Bomb in Gaza

TA1308093595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A roadside bomb blew up at the Morag junction in the Qatif bloc. A border policeman was slightly hurt. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that the explosion occurred when two Border Police vehicles passed the spot. No damage was caused.

Security Forces Evacuate Settlers From West Bank

TA1308154195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Security forces evacuated several dozen settlers from Hadagan Hill near Efrat and the hill near Qarney Shomron this afternoon. The settlers exercised passive resistance. Most of them have been detained by the army.

Ten of 15 West Bank Encampments Still 'in Place'

TA1408105395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 95 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ten out of the 15 encampments set up by the Zo Artzenu [This is Our Land] movement are still in place. At Mitzpe Shmu'el, not far from Giv'at Ze'ev, the settlers poured concrete for four new houses on the night of 12 August and returned during the day to build them. At Neve Tzuf, dozens of Arabs tried to approach an outpost set up by residents of Nahli'el, Neve Tzuf, and 'Ateret.

A contingent of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops separated the two groups and the Arabs retreated. In Qiryat Arba', the settlers are continuing to ignore

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the eviction order served on them by the IDF, and some of them are alternately staying at the abandoned house on Giv'at Haharsina. The makeshift camp near the settlements of Dolev and Talmon also remains in place. The settlers are still alternately manning the encampments at Elon More, Mikhmash, Elqana, Ma'ale Levona, Shvut Rahel, and Neve Daniyel.

Other encampments at Yitzhar, Shilo, 'Ofra, Neve Daniyel, Ganim, and Qadim, have been dismantled or evacuated. Yesterday, the encampment at Yatir, south of the Hebron hills, was also evacuated. The evacuation took over 30 minutes with the participation of IDF and police forces. The police estimated that there were 40 settlers at the site. They were forcibly dragged from the encampment which was declared a closed military area. [passage omitted]

Settlers Plan 'Siege' of Government Compound

TA1508105195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 95 pp A1, A12

[Report by Nadav Shragay and Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yesterday the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza discussed a plan drafted by Nisan Slomyansky, the council's operations officer and head of the Elqana local council, to lay siege to the government ministry compound in Jerusalem for 24 or 48 hours. No decision was made, but it was agreed to resume the debate in a few days.

Residents of central Israel plan to set up yet another encampment today on a hill near Elqana, but the council decided to suspend the establishment of encampments following today's operation, change the pattern of its struggle and concentrate it in Jerusalem. The Zo Artzenu movement, which is scheduled to meet on Thursday, also plans to concentrate its campaign in Jerusalem, in the vicinity of the government ministries.

The document discussed yesterday notes that the siege of the ministry compound would consist of "massing 10,000 people around the Prime Minister's Office for 24 or 48 hours."

The document says the purpose of the operation is "to muster broad public opposition to the government's moves, and consequently, disrupt and put off the ongoing implementation of the Oslo Accords and demand that the matter be decided by the people." A secondary goal noted in the document is "to create a major and high-quality battle site with a potential snowball effect that will herald the launch of a growing number of quantitative and qualitative struggles at other sites and at other times."

The document states that the success of the operation hinges on three key elements:

"1. Numbers: about 10,000 people able to wage a prolonged struggle without being evicted, who will attract others to join the struggle and who will project the message to the public at large that Israel's citizens have entered a new phase in the campaign.

"2. Level of resistance: Passive resistance alone will not enable a persistent and prolonged struggle. Resistance should rise to a 'passive-dynamic' level.

"3. Participants: We should strive to have the struggle led by top-notch public figures (rabbis, army reservists, academics, and national leaders)." [passage omitted]

Human Rights Group Releases Data on Fatalities

TA1008145695 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] From 13 September 1993, the day the Oslo agreement was signed, to the end of July 1995, 132 Israelis were killed by Palestinians: 82 within the boundaries of the Green Line and 50 in the territories and in East Jerusalem. During the same period, 225 Palestinians (including 22 children under the age of 16) were killed by Israelis and by Palestinian collaborators. The Israeli fatalities included civilians, tourists, and members of the security forces. This data was released yesterday by Betzelem, the information center for human rights in the territories.

Betzelem reported that from the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987 to the end of July 1995, 297 Israelis were killed by Palestinians, 152 of them within the boundaries of the Green Line. During the same period, 1,418 Palestinians (including 260 children under the age of 16) were killed by Israelis.

According to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] data, 998 Palestinian collaborators with Israel were killed by Palestinians from the beginning of the intifadah. According to data released by the Associated Press, only 830 collaborators were killed.

David Levi on Plans for 'Centrist' Party

TA1208171395 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Studio interview with Knesset Member David Levi by Yisra'el Segal — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Segal] Let me start with this: There is a general commotion. Traffic intersections are

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blocked; soldiers and settlers engage in confrontations. Do you condemn these actions?

[Levi] I condemn anything that constitutes a violation of the law. In the case of blocking roads, there is more than a violation of the law; there is a violation of the rules of democracy. This is not the way, and those who condone it should not be surprised if it backfires on them when the democratic system is unable to function in this country. Public figures, Knesset members, and party leaders are therefore duty-bound to condemn this categorically. [passage omitted]

[Segal] You said you would announce your political path a week after Passover. It is almost Rosh Hashanah. Well?

[Levi] I needed to get my bearings first. I am not in the Likud any longer. I am no longer part of the organization to which I belonged for many years.

[Segal] Are you going to establish a political party?

[Levi] I definitely am. I am hereby announcing that I am making preparations, which involve a great deal of work and in which many volunteers are taking part....

[Segal, interrupting] So it has been decided.

[Levi] It has been decided: We are setting up a party. It will be a centrist, national party with a social orientation which will make bold pronouncements in the national sphere with regard to our vital interests, with regard to the protection of Jewish settlements, which will never fall under foreign rule. The party will sail under both national and social flags.

[Segal] I do not want to be accused of disseminating election propaganda. What will your party be named?

[Levi] It is not election propaganda; it is a political fact.

[Segal] You are about to establish a political party. What is its name?

[Levi] It will be named on Hanukkah, God willing. This party will gather together many people who feel alienated from the Labor Party, which disappointed them; from Meretz, which boasted principles and ideals but failed to live up to them; and people who refuse to be in the Likud.

[Segal] Regarding Hanukkah, I know who the shammash will be. Who will the other candles be?

[Levi] Were I to tell you now, you would think I was a dictator appointing his peons. It will be a democratic party, and we will hold a convention. Field representatives will bestow on the party not only honor but also great political hope. I am confident that it will include people from every walk of life and every ethnic community.

[Segal] Suppose Bibi Netanyahu appeals to you from the Likud Central Committee podium and says: David, come home.

[Levi, laughing] It was my home long before he showed up, but after things took the course they did, after the party lost track of its goals, of how to achieve unity, of what the unifying message was, our answer....

[Segal, interrupting] Is the Likud still your home?

[Levi] I feel the new framework I am building with many, many friends is my home. [passage omitted]

Labor Officials Seek Cooperation

TA1108125295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Aug 95 p 24

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Labor council secretaries from across the country intend to meet MK [Knesset Member] David Levi next month to discuss possible cooperation with him in the elections.

The meeting, scheduled for September 7 in Netanya, was called as part of the labor council secretaries' rebellion against the Labor Party, which has failed to support their struggle against Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon.

At a stormy meeting in Giv'atayim earlier this week, dozens of labor council secretaries decided to halt all activity for Labor's membership census, which they organize in their respective regions.

The gathering was held by head of the secretaries' battle headquarters, Itzik Ortman, Giv'atayim's labor council secretary.

The secretaries, who are Labor's central field activists, charged their party leaders with abandoning them in the face of Ramon's plans to eliminate most of the 70 local councils and fire 1,000 more workers by the end of the year.

They announced at the meeting that since Labor has deserted them and the workers' cause in general, they are cutting off their political alliance with the party and are ready to join forces with anyone who acts for the workers' good.

The secretaries signed a petition to the Histadrut's organizations section chairman, Pini Shomer, advising him that the Dan region labor council secretaries refuse to cooperate in any way with Ramon's plan to shut down the councils and replace them with regional ones.

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The secretaries stated officially that none of them would serve as a regional council secretary.

The northern Dan region's eight labor councils are first on Ramon's list to be closed down and replaced by one regional council.

The secretaries, who are publicly elected workers' representatives, also resolved to take legal measures against Ramon, whose plans they perceive as a distortion of the voters' decisions and the public needs.

EU Threatens To Boycott Jerusalem Festivities

TA1308154395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Union is threatening to boycott the festivities marking the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish people. The Spanish, French, and Italian ambassadors told Foreign Ministry official Yehuda Milo that Israel is seeking to emphasize the status of Jerusalem as its capital while ignoring its variety and the Christian and Muslim communities. Milo said their reaction was exaggerated.

Foreign Ministry 'Dismayed'

TA1508161095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry says it is dismayed by the EU's decision to boycott the Jerusalem 3,000 celebrations, which begin this year. Yosi Tal-Gan, director general of the celebrations, said the EU has turned what is planned to be a cultural event into something political. He added that organizers have made a concerted effort to stage events that appeal to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

U.S. Planes Allowed Overflight to Jordan

TA1508063695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Aug 95 p A1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last night Israel yielded to a U.S. request to allow its planes to overfly Israeli airspace in the event that a need arises to send urgent airborne assistance to Jordan from the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt.

The aircraft carrier, with 90 airplanes and helicopters on board, docked in the port of Haifa yesterday. The Theodore Roosevelt was a key component of the air force that the United States deployed off Saudi Arabia's shores on the eve of the Gulf War. [passage omitted]

Officials on U.S. 'Pressure' for Projects With Jordan

TA1408110895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 14 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Navit Zomer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Administration is pressuring Israel to include Jordanian companies in the BIRD [Binational Industrial Research and Development] Foundation — a binational U.S.-Israeli foundation for research and development in advanced technologies.

Last week, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, met with Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish and demanded that Jordan be included in the foundation. The industry and trade minister, and Yehoshu'a Glitman, the ministry's chief scientist, who co-manages the foundation, expressed their opposition.

Following the meeting with Indyk, the Industry and Trade Ministry issued a document proposing cooperation in the field of research and development between Israel, Jordan, and the United States in an experimental project run by the chief scientist's bureau at the Industry and Trade Ministry. Jordan's share in this project, $1 million, will be funded by the United States.

In reaction, Yehoshu'a Glitman said that he was "surprised by the massive pressure being exerted by the United States when he was not even able to coordinate a meeting on the issue with the Jordanians."

'Terrorist' Infiltrates From Jordan

TA1208142095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A terrorist who infiltrated from Jordanian territory at dawn was captured in the vicinity of Moshav Argaman in the northern Jordan Rift Valley at midday today. After the armed man was surrounded by security forces, he surrendered without putting up a fight.

Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that the terrorist had crossed the fence near Moshav Shadmot Mehola. Twenty-six hand guns, including one bearing an inscription by Saddam Husayn, and two Kalashnikov rifles were found at the site. The Jordan Valley road and several local townships were closed during the pursuit of the terrorist, and a curfew was imposed on the neighboring Arab villages. They are all open to traffic now.

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Regional Intelligence Cooperation Urged

TA1108142995 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Aug 95 p 6

[Article by Ehud Ya'ari: "From Offensive to Flanking Intelligence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Intelligence warfare methods, which were ordinarily effective against the pre-intifadah PLO, are not as adequate against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which sprouted from the intifadah. If in the 1980's the commanders of the "western sector" and Yasir 'Arafat's other operational arms felt they were living in a glass house, completely exposed to the Shin Bet's inquisitiveness, the Hamas terror operators are behaving as though they have devised a way to seal off their underground pipelines from outsiders.

This description is naturally exaggerated in both directions, but the conclusion is quite obvious: The Shin Bet's frontal onslaught on 'Arafat's terror networks by "flooding" them with all manners of agents and informants — as it is depicted in Palestinian literature — should be countered by an indirect approach to the enemy's rear front in the case of Hamas.

In other words: The dependence on an almost completely self-reliant offensive intelligence should be supplemented by a more patient and reticent intelligence which will have to resort also to cooperation with other secret agencies.

At the height of Palestinian terror in Western Europe in the 1970's, an intelligence exchange network, dubbed the Kilowatt, was run with modest success as an intelligence clearing house between secret services that had difficulty individually tailing suspects, who were constantly infiltrating across borders. As is usual in these matters, the various services did not trust each other very much, and were very cautious about openness among themselves. Kilowatt will not be remembered, therefore, as a model, although it did contribute to a decline in the PLO's "foreign operations" and to the dissolution of sidekick groups, such as Baader Meinhof and the Japanese Red Star.

A similar — and even more sophisticated — system has been evolving in recent months vis-a-vis the Islamic terror, without official or public recognition. Here are some indications: Dr. Musa Marzuq's detention in New York (which could have been preceded by an alert from the Middle East); the extradition of one of the men wanted for the World Trade Center explosion from Jordan to the United States; the extradition of "Carlos" from Sudan to France; the extradition of several Egyptian Islamic underground activists from Pakistan and other countries; President Mubarak's call at the Islamic summit in Casablanca in January for a "treaty of honor," which focused on rival rulers' pledging to each other not to support armed zealot gangs, and the "treaty of honor's" endorsement at the Arab League session this week.

Israel has also found occasional flickers of readiness for intelligence cooperation over the border, which was inconceivable only a few years ago. Chilly random contacts are history. When an event, such as the Ramat Gan bus bombing, which was carried out by a suicide terrorist sent in from abroad, takes place, the authorities can probably send out feelers to see whether anyone has any clues. The same goes for the hunt for "Engineer" Yahya 'Ayyash, who stayed in/departed the Gaza Strip.

The intelligence arena is affected not only by the peace process, but also by the domestic pressure from the Islamic terror threat on each regime. The rulers, who are in a situation in which they are forced to defend themselves rather than declare a war, are forced to act with a modicum of openness toward Israel.

Mubarak reached a frontal clash with the Muslim Brotherhood movement recently — the first since the al-Nasir era. King Husayn periodically exposes Islamic underground nuclei. The Saudis have difficulty putting a clamp on the religious societies that joined the opposition, and there is no need to list all the others.

The recognition of the Islamic movement's international dimension is gradually sinking in, even with those who stubbornly refused to believe in it. There is no more argument that the Muslim Brotherhood — all the armed gangs' umbrella organization, which has lost control of only some of the gangs — has an "international leadership" that convenes periodically to decide on strategic lines of activity. At least some of the names of its leaders are already known, and several of the conferences held in the past (in Kuwait, the United States, and Germany) can be reconstructed. Hamas obviously arose from the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, taking over the movement later with the blessing of the "international leadership," which agreed to put the struggle against Israel at the top of its priorities as of the late 1980's. This is the reason for the Hamas dependence on the movement's overseas branches and on the generation of millionaires that sprouted from the young Muslim Brothers who emigrated to the West from the 1950's on.

To wit: Hamas cannot be waylaid in the same way the PLO was, because it is a much broader target, one that is deployed far away, one whose "depth" is beyond the capability of a single intelligence service, however capable. To obtain information, one would need to look into Hamas from an observation point at the

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non-Palestinian fringes of the movement, and to carry out methodical prevention, collaboration with partners and neighbors would be necessary. Without the United States, Jordan would not have expelled Abu-Marzuq on 1 June, and Israel would have hardly got him. Without the Palestinian Authority — especially after its takeover of the West Bank — dealing with the "engineer" and his disciples will be tenfold harder.

It is a very risky, but unavoidable turnabout. It will, in fact, involve as-yet unwritten intelligence arrangements similar to the established border security arrangements. And the moment terror was defined as an immediate threat — while the threat of war is distant — intelligence coordination is much more urgent than a dialogue between generals. Yet while generals have a rest from war, secret service heads are often immersed in battles waged concurrently with dialogue. Their peace will be full of suspicion and wile, and it will be more fickle than in any other field. Suffice it to imagine the charged, though essential cooperation between Mustafa al-Qaysi, head of the Jordanian service, and the Hashemites' bane, Jibril al- Rujub. Unless they agree on a sufficient degree of an intelligence cease-fire similar to the situation between Israel and the other neighbors, the joint effort vis-a-vis the enemy, who appears in different guises in each country but is one and the same everywhere, will be impaired.

The bottom line is that the issue will be determined by the question of whether the system will sufficiently avail each of the potential partners in the updated version of Kilowatt in its struggle against "his" local zealots, to an extent that will make it worthwhile for him to extend his information even to a disliked neighbor so long as he can remain linked to the udders. If this apparatus works, it will be the best striptease show in the region.

Israel Reportedly Behind Arms Smuggling to Serbs

NC1108150395 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thrilling information was revealed during the past few days about an Israeli-led international network charged with smuggling weapons to the Serb militia. The main centers of this network are located in Brazil, the Netherlands, and Argentina, in addition to other countries. The Israeli army command is directly supervising this international network.

The network consists of about 300 military and international companies and firms. Over 2,000 people are employed as middle men and international arms dealers. This network was founded in 1992 and has stepped up its arms smuggling operations to the Serb militia in 1994-95.

The Israelis are not only directing this international network, but are also training the Serb forces in the use of the modern and sophisticated weapons that are sometimes included in the arms exported from Israel. The Israeli war industries have so far made over $2 billion in profit. The network's officials expect that the size of the Israeli profit from the arms exports to the Serb militia will exceed $4 billion. Most of the significant and secret deals were signed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres or Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This shows that the Israeli officials are working at the highest level to destroy and annihilate the Bosnian Muslims.

This information was revealed following the game played by Israel and Jordan when they sent humanitarian aid to the Bosnian Muslims, and following the emergence of differences involving three businessmen and major international arms smugglers.

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King Receives Cable From Husayn Kamil Hasan

JN1208185595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received more cables of congratulations on the anniversary of the royal ascension to the throne from leaders of fraternal Arab and friendly states. In their cables, the well-wishers expressed the sincerest congratulations on this dear occasion, beseeching God to preserve his majesty the king and give him continued health, wishing the Jordanian people continued progress, honor, and dignity under the wise leadership of his majesty the king.

His Majesty King Husayn also received the following cable of congratulations from Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan: His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him. On the occasion of the anniversary of your ascension to the throne, it gives me pleasure to send to Your Majesty best wishes and congratulations, beseeching God to preserve your royal throne and to maintain you and your noble Arab people. I extend my profuse thanks to your majesty for honoring me with your care and for the constant support your majesty and the Jordanian people have extended to the people of Iraq. Had it not been for this support, our country would have become in utter loss.

May God preserve you and grant you success, Your Majesty the King.

[Signed] Your brother, Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan

Prime Minister Addresses Deputies on Defections

JN1408140895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has said: We, in Jordan, are still committed to Iraq's territorial integrity, its sovereignty over this territory, and its people's right to live an honorable life and new opportunities for construction and prosperity and to choose the course of their political life in order to reinforce its Arab presence and to restore its participation in building human civilization with more giving as it has always been.

Addressing a number of deputies — who met at the Pictures Hall at the Parliament today under the chairmanship of Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur at the request of the Foreign Affairs Committee — the prime minister said: Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan's request to be granted asylum in Jordan is a natural right, which he exercised in light of his estimations and the circumstances under which he lived and which he knows very well. We responded positively to this request out of our commitment to our belief, Arab ethics, human rights law, and to our firm stand to defend the human rights of Arab individuals.

Expanded Remarks by Prime Minister

JN1408175595 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has acquainted the speaker of the House of Representatives and a number of the house members with the circumstances of the defection to Jordan by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions to Jordan. His excellency said: We, in Jordan, are still committed to Iraq's territorial integrity, its sovereignty over this territory, and its people's right to live an honorable life and new opportunities for construction and prosperity and to choose the course of their political life in order to reinforce its Arab presence and to restore its participation in building human civilization with more giving as it has always been.

Addressing a number of deputies — who met at the Pictures Hall at the Parliament today under the chairmanship of Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur at the request of the Foreign Affairs Committee — the prime minister said: Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan's request to be granted asylum in Jordan is a natural right, which he exercised in light of his estimations and the circumstances under which he lived and which he knows very well. We responded positively to this request out of our commitment to our belief, Arab ethics, human rights law, and to our firm stand to defend the human rights of Arab individuals.

The prime minister said at the meeting, during which the discussion dealt with the current affairs, that Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan is not the only one of the sons of the Arab nation, including Iraq, who lives under Jordan's protection enjoying its security, auspices, and stability.

The prime minister reaffirmed that Jordan was not aware that Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions would come. He said: Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil, a number of companions, and their families arrived in Amman last Tuesday [8 August]. Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, who had the honor of meeting with his Majesty King Husayn after his arrival, asked his majesty to grant him and his companions asylum in Jordan and to stay in it under his majesty's care.

His excellency the prime minister said: His Majesty King Husayn issued his instructions to grant them

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complete care and the right to stay in Jordan because this country, which is the shelter of the sons of the nation, grants refuge to those seeking it, protects them, and provides them with all means of security and respectable life.

The prime minister said that this issue falls within the framework of Jordan's pan-Arab stands, particularly Jordan's stand vis-a-vis sisterly Iraq, with all the fraternal ties and historic depth that are entailed in this stand and that were expressed on the official and popular levels.

His excellency the prime minister noted that these fraternal ties and the historic depth in Jordan's pan-Arab stand toward Iraq were particularly demonstrated in its stand on the Iraq-Iran war, in which Jordan and its people, under their leadership, supported their brothers with all their potentials. Also, they were demonstrated in the Jordanian stand on the Gulf crisis when Jordan insisted on an Arab solution to the crisis. At the same time, Jordan rejected the occupation of the land of an Arab country by another Arab country so as to save sisterly Iraq from the devastating consequences which damaged the progress achieved by Iraq.

His excellency the prime minister added: In addition to this, the Jordanian stand on the blockade inflicted on the Iraqi people is clear to everybody. His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government exerted continuous and persistent efforts in various quarters with the aim of lifting the suffering of the Iraqi people and restoring their role on the Arab arena.

His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said: Like our kinfolk in Iraq, we have suffered from the results of the Gulf crisis. We came under a blockade and sanctions were imposed on our exports. We were and still are the gate of our kinfolk in Iraq to the world. We are also contributing to easing their suffering.

Responding to queries by a number of deputies who attended the meeting on the circumstances surrounding the refuge of Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil and his companions with Jordan, the prime minister expressed the conviction that the arrival of those Iraqi officials to Jordan came against the backdrop of internal differences, and that this issue has nothing to do with the peace process in the region.

The prime minister denied any justifications for tensions or a confrontation, God forbid, between Jordan and Iraq. He indicated that there are contacts between the two countries through the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, and that there is no reason for tension between the two countries.

On the news conference held by Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil in Amman, the prime minister said that Gen. Husayn Kamil insisted on holding the news conference to defend himself against charges made against him. He was allowed to do that.

The prime minister added: We are not a party to the conflict. We have nothing to do with the defection of Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil from Iraq. We were surprised by his arrival. His Majesty King Husayn always stressed that rule in Iraq is the responsibility of the Iraqi people. We cannot interfere in the affairs of any sisterly Arab state, because we have suffered from others' interference in our affairs.

The prime minister added: There is no problem between us and Iraq. I do not see that we will enter into a confrontation. There is no escalation in relations with Iraq. With respect to the statements made by other states concerning providing protection for Jordan or such things, everyone is free to say whatever he wants. We have nothing to do with such views. We are against foreign interference in Arab issues.

The prime minister stressed that Jordan is the only outlet for all Iraqis, officials, and ordinary citizens. He said that there are explicit instructions at the border post to allow everyone into Jordan, whether they intend to stay in Jordan or travel abroad via Jordan. This is a clear policy. But as for who is in power in Iraq, this is not our responsibility.

Responding to remarks by some deputies, the prime minister said: Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan is in the Jordanian haven. We are not part of his scheme. Our policy in this regard is unchanging.

Responding to a question on any secrets on Iraq possessed by Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil, the prime minister said: I do not know what secrets he has. But he was a senior official in the Iraqi state. I believe that he will not smuggle any secrets, and Jordan will not allow that. I stress that and emphasize that we are not less patriotic than any other Arab. We have enough patriotism and commitment to call on us to preserve the secrets of Iraq. We have never done anything to the contrary.

On the visits of some foreign officials to Jordan, including the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command and the British defense secretary, and whether they are related to the staff Gen. Husayn Kamil issue, the prime minister said: The U.S. official's visit was planned six months ago. He came for coordination on military exercises preplanned years ago. With respect to the British official, he visited Jordan within a tour of the region covering Egypt, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia.

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I talked with him about the Bosnia question. There is no relationship between those visits and the question of Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil.

On the visit of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn to Amman, the prime minister said: 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who is an uncle of Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil and a cousin of President Saddam Husayn, arrived along with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. They had the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. They said that they were not opposed to the presence of Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil in Jordan. They were reassured about President Saddam Husayn's daughters. His Majesty King Husayn made it clear to them that the two women have been provided full care, and that they are exactly like his own daughters, the princesses.

The prime minister said that Jordan's policy on Iraq has not changed, and that we are not party to action against any state. He stressed: We will not do anything like that. Everything we do is absolutely clear.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and minister of education; Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti; and a number of ministers and senators.

Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, speaker of the House of Representatives, in his name and on behalf of the deputies, thanked the prime minister for his speedy response to the request of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives for a briefing on the government's point of view on the latest developments. He stressed that this comes within the framework of joint cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in the interest of the homeland.

Parliamentarians React to Remarks

JN1508081395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'eda Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman — The Prime Minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, yesterday sought to assure parliamentarians that granting asylum to Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan does not signal any shift of policy towards Iraq and said that Jordan would not be a base from which the Iraqi opposition can wage a campaign against the Baghdad government.

Despite the assurances of the prime minister, some members of the Lower House of Parliament remained sceptical, with opposition deputies saying that many queries were left unanswered. [passage ommitted]

In interviews with the JORDAN TIMES after the meeting centrist deputies expressed satisfaction at the prime minister's response to their questions while opposition deputies remained skeptical, saying that many queries remained unanswered.

The chairman of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, said: "We are not worried because Jordan has never been involved in or interfered in other countries' internal affairs. This has always been its stance and we are sure it will not be any different now."

Centrist Deputy Anwar al-Hadid expressed satisfaction at the result of the meeting, citing what he termed as the deputies' unanimous assertion that Jordan will always remain hospitable to political asylum seekers. Centrist Deputy Hashim Dabbas agreed and described the meeting with the prime minister as positive.

"There is no doubt that our relationship with Saudi Arabia is getting better, but we received assurances from the government that Jordan will not let Iraqi opposition use Jordan as a base to conduct any activity against Iraq," he said.

However, Hamzah Mansur, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, said the government avoided many of the deputies' questions.

Leftist Deputy Tujan Faysal said the government's reaction was very traditional.

"There is nothing decisive about it," she said. "It was very general."

Bassam al-'Umush, another IAF deputy, criticized Minister of Information Khalid al-Karaki for broadcasting Gen. Hasan's press conference on Saturday [12 August] on Jordan Television "three times in full." He said that the minister and the government should not have given the Iraqi general such media access and coverage.

"If we had a strong Parliament, it would have demanded the government's resignation," he said.

Dr. al-'Umush told the JORDAN TIMES that during the meeting, some deputies also criticised Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, accusing him of trying to improve Jordan's relations with Gulf states at the expense of its relations with Iraq.

"He (Mr. al-Kabariti) laughed and advised us to be patient," Dr. al-'Umush said "you should wait and see, there are things in the way," Dr. al-'Umush quoted the foreign minister as saying.

He also quoted the prime minister as saying that the visit of Saudi Prince Turki al-Faysal to Jordan on Saturday was related to Gen. Hasan.

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"Jordan has hosted political asylum seekers before, why did not they receive the same treatment?" Dr. al-'Umush asked. "If the general wants to launch a coup d'etat why doesn't he go to the north of Iraq and launch it from there?"

Lower House speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur dismissed all insinuations that Jordan was seeking to improve its ties with Saudi Arabia at the expense of its relations with Iraq.

"Jordan is working on improving its relations with Saudi Arabia for a long time," Mr. al-Surur told the JORDAN TIMES. "But we have never built relations with a country at the expense of another."

In a statement issued by Parliament following the meeting and read by Mr. al-Surur, parliamentarians confirmed that "this event has no political implications on the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship and that Jordan continues to maintain the same policy towards Iraq, especially in its efforts to lift the embargo on the Iraqi people, to keep open borders between the two countries and not to allow any activity to be carried out from the Jordnian land that is in contradiction with the country's principles and beliefs that are based on non-interference with other countries' internal affairs."

House of Representatives Statement on Defection

JN1408205995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1700 and 2000 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the meeting with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir today, Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, speaker of the House of Representatives, stressed the unwavering Jordanian principle of non—interference in the internal affairs of others. He paid tribute to the great and good efforts which Jordan, led by His Majesty King Husayn, has been undertaking to lift Iraqi suffering. Engineer al-Surur said non-interference in the affairs of others is a policy that is a cause of pride for Jordan and is an example to be emulated by others. He said: We hope that the suffering of the Iraqi people would come to an end and that Iraq would again play its role within its Arab nation and the entire international community through objective, purposeful, and constructive dialogue.

On the main points included in the government's statement and the deputies' interpositions, al-Surur said:

[Begin al-Surur recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At the request of the Foreign Affairs Committee and in arrangement with his excellency the prime minister, a meeting was held in the Pictures Hall chaired by the Speaker of the House of Representatives to discuss the developments that took place following the defection of General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions to Jordan. The meeting was attended by many members of the House of Representatives.

His excellency the prime minister gave a statement on the issue. Then the House's members expressed their opinions and raised questions on the incident. The House would like to announce the main points of the government's statements and deputies' interpositions:

First—The defection of the said general is an individual incident and should be viewed as a humanitarian seeking of asylum by a person who sought the kingdom's protection of his life. This is a continuation of the kingdom's stands throughout its long history. This incident does not have any political content with respect to the relationship between the two fraternal countries. Jordan will continue to care about the continuation of its well-known policies on Iraq in terms of the following:

1. Lifting the blockade against the fraternal Iraqi people and continuation of the Jordanian efforts exerted in coordination with other countries and international establishments and organizations.

2. Borders will remain open as usual. The flow of goods into and from the sister country will continue in accordance with the measures and practices that have been adopted throughout the past five years and in compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and without effecting any change.

3. No activities contradicting the Jordanian principle of non- interference will be allowed on Jordanian territory.

4. Jordan will not be a party to leaking the secrets of the Iraqi state to any side and it will not allow this to take place through it.

Third [as heard] — Visits by foreign guests to the kingdom these days have nothing to do with the defection.

Fourth—The future of Iraq is entirely an Iraqi affair. Jordan will not serve as a passageway or as a base for any activity that would harm the interests of Iraq or any other Arab country, in compliance with Jordan's principled constants throughout our history of non-interference in the affairs of others and respect for the sovereignty of countries on their territories and the will of their peoples. [end recording]

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Deputies Reject Jordan as 'Base for Iraqi Opposition'

JN1408130195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Sa'idah al-Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Members of the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday welcomed Jordan's move to grant asylum to the Iraqi president's son-in-laws and their families but criticised what they saw as the kingdom's agreement to grant the Iraqi opposition the ground to launch their operations against another "brotherly" Arab country.

The House is expected to convene today in a special session to discuss the Jordanian move.

Several deputies, interviewed by the Jordan Times on Sunday, lauded the Kingdom's hospitality for Arab asylum-seekers but strongly criticised and expressed astonishment at "what followed later."

Opposition deputies warned of "serious consequences" for the Kingdom if it was used as a base for Iraqi opposition.

"Jordan has been always known for its hospitality," the head of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, told the JORDAN TIMES. "But Jordan has never been known to have interfered in other countries' internal affairs. It has never been involved in terrorist attacks or military coup d'etat."

Iraqi Lieutenant-General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil and their wives—both daughters of President Saddam— arrived last week in Jordan seeking asylum.

General Husayn announced in a press conference on Saturday [12 August] that he would work with Iraqi groups inside and outside Iraq to topple the Iraqi regime.

Dr. al-Nusur said that this move might anger the Iraqi government. This feeling was widely shared by opposition deputies who regarded Jordan's position as an [as published] "unhealthy" and said it might lead to "undesired consequences."

Bassam al-'Umush, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy, said Jordan should not be involved in other countries' internal affairs and warned of serious consequences on Jordan.

"By taking them (the Iraqis) in and allowing them to operate against another Arab country, Jordan sets a precedent," Dr. al- 'Umush said. "It is an aggression on Jordan's sovereignty and stability."

Dr. al-'Umush said any change in Iraq should come from within and "if they were seeking a base let them take the U.S. as the base if what has been said about them having contacts with the Americans before fleeing the country was true."

The al-Zarqa' deputy appeared to suggest that the defection was arranged with the U.S.

Gen. Hasan was "very sure of himself" during Saturday's press conference, Dr. al-'Umush said. "He knew what he was saying. It was not like someone who is only concerned over the situation in Iraq."

Leftist Deputy Tujan Faysal also said that the Jordanian move will badly influence the country, especially in terms of hosting Iraqi defectors "who have good knowledge of Iraq's secrets."

"Jordan will be responsible not only for ensuring their safety and security but also for protecting the information they have," said Ms. Faysal.

Deputy Faysal warned that other Arab countries will lose confidence in Jordan "that once showed solidarity with Iraq and now turned against it."

None of the deputies referred to the government spokesman's comment on Saturday that Jordan's policy on Iraq remained unchanged.

Another leftist deputy, Mustafa Shunaykat, demanded that the government clarifies Jordan's position and explain why the defectors were given access to "carry out such acts from the Jordanian land."

"It is an imbalanced and unwise move," Mr. Shunaykat said. "What would be Jordan's position if another country hosted Jordanian opposition and allowed it to operate against it? Definitely it would cut all ties and considers us as an enemy."

Official Source Denies Report on Assassination Plot

NC1308111195 Paris AFP in English 1040 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] London, Aug 13 (AFP)—An attempt to assassinate the sons in law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was foiled this weekend by secret service agents in Jordan, where the two men and their families have defected, THE MAIL on Sunday [13 August] reported.

A government source in Amman Sunday denied the report, telling AFP that no such plot existed.

The paper, citing senior intelligence sources in Jordan, said the assassination was to take place Saturday during

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a press conference given by General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil.

The two men and their wives, Raghad and Rana, both daughters of the Iraqi president, fled to Jordan on Tuesday along with their children and some 30 people.

"Saddam had wanted a very public execution," the wide circulation paper said.

It said that "hours before" the press conference, Jordanian secret service agents arrested two men posing as journalists in order to gain access to the conference and kill the two brothers.

"Security officers overpowered and disarmed the two gunmen," the paper said, adding that had the plot succeeded "the assassins would have undoubtedly paid with their own lives."

But the government source, who spoke with an AFP reporter on condition of anonymity, said: "There were no arrests linked to an assassination bid, there were no fake Iraqi journalists or anyone else involved." [passage omitted]

Commentaries, Editorials View Asylum Decision

U.S. Policy of 'Stirring Evil' Decried

JN1308222895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 28

["Spotlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "The Stirrer of Evil"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that Jordan does not believe that there is any justification for straining relations with Iraq. Iraq expressed the same belief in a frank and clear statement by Tariq 'Aziz, in which he dismissed reports released by American sources that there are extraordinary Iraqi military movements against Jordan. This means that the two parties, Baghdad and Amman, do not see any reason for tension despite the defection of General Husayn Kamil and his companions. However, Washington does not share this belief.

The task of "stirring evil" in the region by the United States is arousing disapproval. Following President Clinton's suggestions that there is a possible Iraqi threat to Jordan, the Pentagon started to publish explanations and analyses, based on data provided by its satellites, about "preparations to mass troops along the borders with Jordan." The motives behind this furor have become well-known: that is, the interests of the United States which sees the continuation of Iraq's blockade an opportunity to continue draining the oil and funds of the Gulf states under the cover of blockade or preserving the region's security.

Its truly regrettable that the U.S. has succeeded in using Security Council resolutions to keep interfering in Iraq's affairs and to reinforce its influence and the policy of plundering in the Middle East. This policy has adversely affected the region's economies and development plans and has even disrobed the region from the feeling of security and stability.

The day before yesterday, we were listening to the U.S. ambassador to the Security Council while she was talking about mass graves of Muslims in Bosnia where thousands of men, children, and women were buried. Although Bosnia is under the protection of the United Nations, we did not feel in Ambassador Albright's remarks any grudges against the Serbs similar to those grudges harbored against Iraq.

The situation in Iraq could be hard and strained in many domains, including the Kurdish issue and the economic situation. However, the reason for this is the blockade and the methods used to bring Iraq to its knees and humiliate it even if the price is straining the situation in Turkey — due to the Kurdish problem — and even if it takes a new warmup military campaign under allegations of Iraqi threats to its neighbors.

We in Jordan do not believe that there is a danger from sister Iraq. The danger is inherent in the U.S. policy of "stirring evil" and insistence on isolating Iraq and destroying it, something which will have negative economic, psychological, and pan-Arab repercussions on each Arab country.

'Surprise' of Defection Analyzed

JN1408072695 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 18

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "The Impasse"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The resounding surprise caused by the defection of two senior Iraqi leaders did not spare anyone, taking into consideration the varying impact of the surprise which ranged from delight and astonishment to gloating and perplexity.

For anyone who cares about Iraq and the Iraqis, away from emotions and whims, certainly this dramatic development — which is not the first of its kind, although it is the most important and exciting — reveals what can be called a structural crisis within the existing authority. This crisis escalated under the continued blockade clamped on Iraq and the difficulties caused by it. Moreover — and perhaps this is the most important element — the internal policies adopted to confront the repercussions of this blockade were based on a continuous narrowing of the government base, instead

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of expanding it. This has reflected negatively on the stability of the regime on the one hand and increased the Iraqis' suffering on the other. This explains the Iraqis' continuous immigration abroad, from all social groups and classes, including the rural people who, throughout their history, have never left the homeland. As we all know, this has eventually ended with reducing powers and concentrating them in the hands of a limited number of officials.

We have always believed and still believe that the only salvation for Iraq and other countries is through democracy; the halting of militarizing public life; and ending the extremely harsh treatment of the people, which affects their lives and dignity, and which threatens them for trivial reasons. We have always believed in this and we will continue to believe in it, especially since this is in the interest of every Arab, rulers or ruled. We have said this on various occasions. Here is this new development revealing the impasse which was reached. What concerns us, first and foremost, is that the Iraqis restore their right to an honorable, prosperous, secure, and stable life just like other peoples who even do not have the resources and wealth of the Iraqi people; and that the unjust blockade be lifted to enable Iraq to play its role on the Arab, regional, and international levels, and to enable the Arab region's people and countries to live in fraternity, cooperation, and reconciliation without internal tyranny, ethnic conflicts, or foreign hegemony.

Government Stance on Defection Analyzed

JN1408221695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 95 , pp 1, 7

[By Natasha Bukhari]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defection to Jordan last week of President Saddam Husayn's two daughters and their husbands, the powerful former Minister of Industry Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan and His Brother Col. Saddam Hasan, has raised the spectacle of a new policy being adopted by Jordan vis-a-vis Iraq—a policy whereby neutrality is replaced by active engagement in shaping Iraq's future.

His Majesty King Husayn, apart from quickly granting refuge to the Iraqi asylum seekers, has not said his final word on what option Jordan should adopt vis-a-vis the situation in Iraq, which is becoming almost impossible for the Iraqis to bear. While the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir officially maintains that there has been no shift in the Kingdom's policy of non-interference in Iraq's internal affairs, observers and politicians, including even members of the Cabinet, generally agree that the country is bracing for taking a major step towards playing a new role in what is happening in Iraq.

These observers and politicians, in attempting to explain their belief, do not only cite the fact that Gen. Hasan was allowed to hold a press conference at the Royal Court and to call for the overthrow of the Iraqi regime. Some of them even think the defection was planned in advance and the whole episode engineered in such a way that would inevitably make Jordan change policy vis-a-vis Iraq. There have been attempts by the government to explain the choice of the Palace as the venue for Gen. Hasan to hold his conference and to issue his call for toppling the Baghdad regime.

One was that security considerations lay behind it. Another maintained that it happened because the General is considered to be a personal guest of the King. And the third official line contended that the press conference was a "one-time" event after which the commotion around the minister's defection would die down—and he may even leave town altogether after a short period of stay in Amman.

ANALYSIS

"There are no political dimensions behind (granting the asylum)," Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti was quoted as saying: "What Iraq is witnessing in terms of events is an internal affair and the Jordanian government has nothing to do with it."

In any case Jordan has been distancing itself for some time now from the Saddam regime, and what Jordanians really care about is alleviating the plight of Iraqis without telling them what to do with their political system and leadership, the official line goes.

But few outside the government seem to accept these explanations. Some opposition figures even fear that Jordan might become the base for a U.S.-backed effort to overthrow the Iraqi regime.

Politicians and analysts interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES generally believe that there will be a change in Iraq soon and Jordan had better be prepared for that change.

"We cannot be just a bystander. If someone does take a position that serves Iraq, we have to support it," says Senator Kamal al- Sha'ir. "Jordan's relations with Iraq has always been governed by three principles," Sen. al-Sha'ir maintains. "They are respect by Iraq for U.N. Security Council resolutions and the charter of the Arab League; the political economic and social well-being of Iraqis; and the preservation of the national and territorial integrity of Iraq.

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"To the extent that these principles are respected, so would our relations with (the Iraqi regime) be," the senator says. "Saddam has failed to respect these principles, thus prompting Jordan to stand by anyone who wants to correct that regime's stand.

While some believe that Jordan's stand in harbouring defectors who are threatening the Iraqi regime is contradictory to the Jordanian call for alleviating the suffering of Iraqis, Dr. al- Sha'ir believes that "Jordan does not have any attachment to certain individuals. Its main concern is for individuals to adhere to the above principles."

King Husayn last month reiterated his call for an end to the plight of Iraqi people by lifting the sanctions against Baghdad; he also urged Arab and Western countries to open dialogue with Baghdad to pave the way for involving Iraq in the Middle East peace process.

But with the U.S. unlikely to consider opening a dialogue with Saddam Husayn, Jordan might find itself forced to support someone Washington has shown signs of dealing with, according to analysts.

Even though he denied contacts with the U.S., Gen Hasan is believed to have in fact met with American officials in Amman. He also told reporters on Saturday that he is keen on mending Iraq's relations with Arabs and all other states to help him lift the sanctions imposed against his country since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

While admitting that Jordan's move to grant asylum to opponents of President Saddam will help speed up Jordan's reconciliation process with Gulf states, some Jordanian officials claim that Jordanian-Iraqi relations are irrelevant to the Kingdom's quest for improved relations with the Gulf. But the politicians disagree, saying that by turning its back on President Saddam, Jordan would be winning over the Saudis and Kuwaitis more easily and quickly.

News agencies on Sunday reported that a Saudi prince Saturday met with King Husayn for talks on the issue of the defection of the Iraqis. The reports came amid talks of an impending visit by Foreign Minister al-Kabariti to Riyadh this week which would be aimed at paving the way for Jordanian-Saudi summit at the end of this month.

The timely visit by the Saudi prince, according to diplomats, is indicative of some kind of a link between Jordanian-Gulf relations and Jordan's new stand towards the Iraqi regime.

But while U.S. President Bill Clinton was quick to announce his backing for Jordan's moves and assured King Husayn that he will protect the country from any possible military threat by Iraq, the top Iraqi defector believes that no such threat is likely.

"It would be suicidal," Gen. Hasan said when asked how Iraq might respond to Jordan after the defections, adding that for years now, Jordan has been the only gateway to Iraqis.

Baghdad needs us as much as we need it if not more, some Jordanians believe. "I, as a Jordanian, do not mind paying a higher price for oil, if that will, in the long run, benefit our neighbours," says Dr. al-Sha'ir in reference to a highly "unlikely" decision by Iraq to stop supplying Jordan with oil.

He adds that any such move by Iraq would be countered by Jordan's closing its border with Iraq, which would be "very damaging for them.

While Jordan's asylum to Gen. Hasan and his family has become a fact of life, some officials and politicians maintain that Jordan would never meddle into other countries' internal affairs. "Jordan might voice or show gestures of support for one party or another but it would not assist it topple a regime," says a senior official.

"Jordan has a proven record of never meddling in the internal affairs of sovereign states. But we do not have any political ambitions to do so," says the official, who asked not to be named.

Others, however, say that while Jordan had no choice but to grant the Iraqi group asylum, the Kingdom has not and has no interest in ruining its relations with Baghdad and vice versa.

"Iraq is in no position to ruin its relations with Jordan, nor does Jordan any interest in shaking its good relations with Baghdad," says Hamada Fara'nah, a columnist for AL-DUSTUR Arabic daily.

The defection of the Iraqi minister and his group should teach the Iraqi regime a lesson so that it would "try to widen its social and political system to represent the majority of people rather than the minority," Mr. Fara'nah wrote in his daily column on Saturday. "But Jordan will not and should not allow any of the defectors to exercise any political activity against Saddam Husayn.

Country 'Home of Free Arabs'

JN1408040495 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Aug 95 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Jordan Is for Its Nation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We do not exercise one-upmanship against anyone when we say that Jordan has been and will continue to be the home of free Arabs

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and the bearer of their pains and hopes throughout the modern Arab history. We will not contradict history if we state that the Great Arab Revolt, which was led by the nations' free and honorable men, was in the interest of the nation and its glory and dignity and the humanity of its people since the late al-Sharif Husayn Bin-'Ali advocated the revival of the Arab cultural plan in the eastern wing of the great Arab homeland.

Based on this and in light of this great fact, the heir of this revolution, His Majesty King Husayn, promoted this plan in the land of the Arab's revolution on the Arab, regional, and international scenes.

As General Husayn Kamil Hasan said in his news conference yesterday, Jordan and its Hashemite leadership supported the Iraqi brethren throughout the past 15 years. Jordan was the outlet of the Iraqi people and Iraq's main access to the world.

Based on the above, it was natural for Jordan, with its historical Hashemite leadership, to care about the nation's sons who make pilgrimage to its sanctuary — which is, in the final analysis, their pan-Arab sanctuary and their warm Arab house. The Iraqi brethren are only some of the nation's sons who were hosted by King Husayn.

Our Hashmite leadership — which is throwing its historical and pan-Arab weight to restore the nation's solidarity, cooperation, and integration — renews its commitment to the great dream represented in the Arab individual's right to live away from fear, suppression, hunger, and unfair blockades. Leading these Arab individuals are the people of Iraq, which is the land of civilizations and enormous physical and moral resources.

In the final analysis, Jordan, as Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan described it in his news conference, is a country of magnanimity, manhood, and genuine Arab customs. It will host on its land all those who enter its large tent and seek security therein and will share with them love, bread, and the Arab nation's dream of occupying a position it deserves.

Asylum Reflects Consistent Policy

JN1208110195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 17

[Editorial: "Conduct That Is Not Out of Character"]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn's noble gesture of agreeing to host the Iraqi brothers who sought protection in Arab Jordan and extend to them every possible care until they decide whether they wish to stay in Jordan or leave is a familiar Hashemite Jordanian move reflecting the course pursued by this country under this leadership.

Jordan, which since its inception has been a safe haven for all Arabs compelled under certain conditions to seek its protection, is the very Jordan that received a few days ago several Iraqi brothers and their families who came from a fraternal Arab country to whose people we have always been a support and will remain so until the mischief brought on by the five-year old blockade and suffering, which are unprecedented in contemporary history, are brought to an end.

Jordan, whose Arab Army performed pan-Arab duties whenever there was a call for the performance of such duties and which, along with brothers, offered martyrs on the gates and walls of Jerusalem, is the very Jordan that has constantly opened its doors for all fraternal Arabs seeking a safe haven under compelling circumstances.

We all recall happily and proudly how Jordan's borders were opened to hundreds of thousands of people of over 100 different nationalities heading for home when the Gulf crisis erupted, not to mention our kinfolk returning from Kuwait and Iraq.

Over the past three decades, Jordan has been subjected to three big waves of migration caused by wars and crises. Its spontaneous manifestation of solidarity with the displaced people has taken the form of sharing everything with them. Jordan's demographic structure has included Arabs of various ancestral lineages, who were allowed to hold senior posts. Jordan has proceeded along the path of fraternity between the Palestinians and Jordanians and identified with its nation's goals of freedom, unity, and pan-Arab revival.

These are the humanitarian and pan-Arab considerations that have prompted Jordan to support the Iraqi people and demand that the regional and international embargo enforced against them be lifted. Based on these considerations, Jordan agreed to host the Iraqi brothers and their families, who requested asylum from it a few days ago.

Country Had 'No Choice'

JN1208123295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Sound Asylum"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan's decision to grant Iraqi Minister of Minerals and Industries Lt. General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Col. Saddam Hasan and their families and entourage asylum in the country is defensible morally and legally. When people so close to the Iraqi president choose to seek haven in Jordan, then there is little the Jordanian leadership can do except

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to grant them their wish, regardless of the political cost or benefit involved in the process.

For years now we have been hearing about one wave of repression in Iraq after the other with many Iraqi citizens literally put to summary executions for even the flimsiest reasons or for appearing to hold counter views on how to govern the country and deal with the aftermath of the Gulf war. The Iraqi people also have suffered too much and for too long because of the U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad as all efforts to ease their agonies have ended in vain. His Majesty King Husayn throughout this period has been making every possible effort to lift or at least to ease those sanctions often in the face of stiff opposition from several Arab and international quarters. Likewise Jordan has defended what Iraq has already done to meet its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions as more than sufficient to begin the process of rehabilitating it internationally and regionally.

There is also the legal side to this issue. Under international law, no state may refuse the defection to its territory of a citizen from a foreign country without due process of the Law. The "non- refoulment" principle requiring governments to allow the entry of foreign nationals asking for political asylum when they allege repression and persecution or fear of basic human rights violations is so well established that it has become part of the customary international law. The case of Baghdad against according the Iraqi defectors asylum and safe haven in Jordan is weakened by repeated U.N. condemnation of Iraq's human rights record. Under the circumstances, Jordan had no choice under international norms but to grant the Iraqi people in question asylum pending the resolution of their status at a later stage.

This episode need not disturb the existing relations between the two countries. Its fallouts can still be contained by the Iraqi government by taking appropriate remedial steps in the direction of making such defections unnecessary.

Iraq, Jordan Urged To Maintain Ties

JN1308221995 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Aug 95 p 28

[Article by Hamadah Fara'inah: "Jordanian-Iraqi Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Just as the Iraqi side cannot afford to destroy its relations with Jordan, we, too, have no interest in shaking our relations with Iraq. This is the equation which has governed Jordanian-Iraqi relations since the Gulf disaster.

Jordan had no role in instigating General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions against the Iraqi regime and the policy of President Saddam Husayn. It also had no choice in receiving a man who sought political asylum for himself and his companions, so long as they were the ones who chose to leave Baghdad. And, as Tariq 'Aziz said, the regime will neither come to a standstill with the defection of one person nor will it fall by the opposition of one person also, no matter how important and close he is. The main thing is to learn the lesson and to try to expand the social and political base of the regime so that it would belong to the Iraqi majority, not minority.

Iraq knows very well the great risks and sacrifices we have made for the sake of its people. At the same time, we know Iraq's role in support of Jordan during the first and second Baghdad summits, when, despite its hardships, it willingly offered Jordan the sum of $50 million in June 1990. We also know that Iraq supplies us daily with oil, half of which is paid at the market price and the other almost free on the basis of the economic cooperation agreement which involves millions of dollars. This oil is supplied with the special permission of the UN Security Council; or to be more precise, with the acceptance, agreement, and approval of the United States.

Jordan has not played any negative role in instigating General Kamil or any other opposition side against the Iraqi regime or the policy of President Saddam Husayn. On the contrary, it has played a positive role in favor of dismantling the embargo on Iraq. This is not because Jordan supports this policy, but because our interests impose such a policy on us. Therefore, it is inconceivable after we have suffered the effects of Arab misunderstanding, especially by the Gulf Cooperation Council countries due to our stand with Iraq during the war and the embargo, for us to change now that Iraq is on the verge of dismantling the embargo.

It is in the interest of both Jordan and Iraq to maintain their present relationship. And, if the Iraqi call for the return of General Kamil and his companions to Baghdad is rejected, it is in Iraq's interest for these people to remain in Amman where they can be away from foreign blackmail outside Amman. And, so long as minister Kamil is banned from engaging in any political activity against the regime of President Saddam Husayn from Jordan, just as others have also been banned, this is another plus point for Jordan vis-a-vis its relations with Iraq. In fact, it should be one of the best manifestations of confidence between the two sides, who have gone through the circumstances of the tribulation and the embargo together and it is time they benefited from the breakthrough and stability.

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'Kinship' Said To Save King From Saddam Wrath

MM1508105195 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12-13 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Bassam Baddarin in Amman: "Husayn Kamil Has Told Jordan That He Wishes To Have a Dialogue With Baghdad and Not With the Opposition. Saddam Was Not Angry Because the King Has Kinship Which Qualifies Him To Play 'a Family Role'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The first impression given by Jordanian political and information circles following Jordan's surprise decision to grant political asylum to the Iraqi minister of industrialization (Husayn Kamil) and his companions evidently lacked any element of "foreboding," although it was characterized by astonishment and nonexpectation.

It was also evident that the Jordanian decisionmakers whom AL- QUDS AL-'ARABI interviewed following the decision avoided talking of the existence of a relatively severe crisis in relations between Amman and Baghdad as a result of the Jordanian decision. Political and party circles have spoken of Iraq absorbing this incident politically, countered on the Jordanian side by a push toward exploitation of the incident for the formulation of a new Iraqi outlook that would save Iraq from the bundle of crises that it has been facing since the [Gulf] war.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday surprised everybody by sending a telegram to King Husayn, the Jordanian monarch, congratulating him on the anniversary of the King's accession to the throne, which is currently being celebrated by the Hashemite Kingdom.

According to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI's sources, the telegram arrived at the Jordanian Royal Court after President Saddam Husayn's eldest son ('Adiyy Saddam Husayn) had left Jordanian territory and was disseminated simultaneously by the official Iraqi News Agency [INA].

In his telegram, Saddam Husayn expressed his wishes for "the good health and well-being" of the Jordanian king and for the progress and prosperity of the Jordanian people. Observers in Amman have seen this telegram as an indication of endorsement of the Jordanian point of view that President Saddam was not angry at the defection of his two sons-in-law to Amman, although he had wished not to have lost [his son-in-law] Lieutant General Husayn Kamil, who is one of the most prominent of his close companions, so simply.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that a series of urgent and intensive contacts had taken place until a late hour between Amman and Baghdad, during which the Jordanian leadership tried to put the Iraqi leadership's mind at ease and called upon it to show understanding of Jordan's political and humane attitude which prompted Jordan to accept the request of some members of President Saddam's family for residence, care, and protection in Jordan.

According to our sources, the Jordanian leadership has informed the Iraqi leadership that the Jordanian decision was not tantamount to interference in Baghdad's internal affairs, pointing out that Amman has dealt with the question of Iraqi asylum-seekers from a purely humanitarian point of view.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian public anxiously watched the development of the situation between Amman and Baghdad and endeavoured to obtain more details about the sudden decision by the Iraqi leading figures to take refuge in Jordan.

Responsible Jordanian Government sources have stated that the government is still studying the matter and carefully monitoring the reactions emanating from Baghdad concerning the Jordanian decision.

A senior responsible official in the Jordanian Government has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the Iraqis seem to have understood the reasons that prompted Jordan to respond to the request made by the three [as published] Iraqis for asylum in Jordan. The official added that this understanding on the part of the Iraqis has dissipated the threat, which some assumed the granting of asylum would have, to the ambitious plans King Husayn is sponsoring for lifting the blockade of Iraq. He pointed out: To this very moment we have not heard any comments on the matter from President Saddam Husayn. The Jordanian official disclosed that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn had informed the Jordanian monarch during his visit to Amman that he would like a chance to persuade his relatives and sisters to return to Iraq and the resolution of the internal conflicts within Iraq itself.

The Jordanian responsible official said that Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil refused to listen to what 'Udayy had to say and told the chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, Marwan al-Qasim: I have decided to leave Iraq once and for all and I will not return until many of the conditions in Iraq have been changed.

It was learned later that Iraq has asked Jordan not to allow Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil to establish and hold contacts from Amman with symbols of the Iraqi opposition abroad. This Iraqi request was the reason that prompted Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil to assure the Jordanian responsible officials that he was not contemplating anything of the sort at this stage, adding that he would like to have a dialogue from "Amman" with the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad and not with the opposition in Europe.

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AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that severe conflicts had bedevilled the relations between Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil and a number of President Saddam Husayn's brothers and his son 'Udayy which led to the departure of the former from Iraq. The sources added that these conflicts had something to do with the way of dealing with the internal crises Iraqi has been experiencing and the extent of Iraq's response to the conditions for the restoration of Iraq's Arab relations and the lifting of the blockade.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has also learned from the Department of Borders and Aliens in Amman that Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil and his companions and their families entered Jordan in a very ordinary manner with Iraqi passports and that a senior security officer had permitted them to enter after having contacted the Jordanian Royal Court.

Well-informed sources have stated that the absence of any fierce Iraqi reaction to the Jordanian decision is due to the old family ties that King Husayn has with the Iraqi leadership and that it is these family ties that enable him to intervene to resolve conflicts within the ranks of President Saddam Husayn's family. These sources added that members of the Iraqi president's family look upon the Hashemites as "kinsmen," which means King Husayn's intervention to resolve the family dispute within President Saddam Husayn's family can be viewed as an action devoid of all political calculations.

They recall in this context King Husayn's intervention a few years ago to offer protection to 'Udayy, President Saddam's son, when the latter approached him following a dispute with his father over the killing of an Iraqi while in his ['Udayy's] hands. They said that King Husayn actually intervened and repaired the rift between President Saddam and his son after 'Udayy's mother had requested his intervention.

As to the reaction of Jordanian political circles toward the recent developments, it has ranged from support for the Jordanian decision to expressions of fear about the future of relations between the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples. Hamzah Mansur, spokesman for Islamic Tendency, has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Islamic Tendency has not yet studied the question of the three [as published] Iraqi defectors and their families but that he wishes to remind everybody that his party is against any measure that would increase the suffering of the Iraqi people, who have been suffering much because of the international blockade that was imposed on them.

For his part, 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali, leader of the Al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party which is the largest of the middle-of-the-road parties in Jordan, has stated that he does not consider that the Jordanian decision to grant asylum to the Iraqi leading figures who sought refuge in Jordan has any political background or reflects a Jordanian desire to harm Iraq. Replying to a question by AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, he said: The question is what prompted a person with the position and importance of Lt. Gen. Kamil Husayn to leave Iraq? This is not Jordan's fault, and the Iraqi leadership would be committing a mistake if it were to believe that Jordan was interfering in its affairs or that what has happened would harm relations between Baghdad and Amman. Al-Majali pointed out that the Iraqi leadership is currently facing difficulties and the departure of the Iraqi commander Husayn Kamil constitutes an important step, which might help in the reformulation of vital questions inside Iraq, and consequently help in facing problems from a new perspective.

For his part, leftist deputy Mustafa Shunaykat linked the presence of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil in Amman and the possible exploitation of this incident for the renewal of the calls for the tightening of the blockade on Iraq. He added that what has happened will increase the pressure on the Iraqi leadership and lead to the further tightening of the blockade on Iraq.

It remains for us to say that Jordanian political forces usually advocate the lifting the blockade on Iraq while at the same time they always criticize the lack of freedom and democracy in Baghdad and call on the Iraqi regime to reactivate constitutional, legislative, and democratic institutions in Iraq.

King Husayn Reportedly Meets With Saudi Official

NC1308120595 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 13 (AFP)—Jordan's King Husayn met a senior Saudi official on Saturday [12 August] on the first such visit since the two countries broke off relations during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, a Jordanian official said.

The source, who would not name the Saudi official, told AFP on Sunday only that he was "a member of the royal family with an important role in managing affairs of state."

The source added that the brief visit on Saturday in Amman was kept "secret" and that the meeting with the king was part of the "rapprochement between Jordan and Saudi Arabia."

"Positive new developments in Saudi-Jordanian relations will soon take place," the Jordanian official said. [passage omitted]

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Discusses Ties, Latest Events

JN1408105895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn on Sunday met with a high-ranking Saudi envoy paying the first such visit to Jordan after the Gulf crisis and discussed bilateral relations and the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, official sources said.

Also expected to have been discussed during the meeting was a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by King Husayn for a summit with King Fahd in the first such encounter between the two leaders after relations were strained in the wake of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti is expected to visit Riyadh this week to prepare for the summit, which will seal Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation, according to the sources. No detail was available on the timing of the summit.

It will be Mr. al-Kabariti's second trip to Riyadh in a month and reflects the improvement in relations, which is expected to be capped by the nomination soon of a Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

Riyadh recalled its envoy from Amman in 1991 in protest against what it saw as Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis and declined to approve a replacement for the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia when the diplomat's tenure ended. Early this year, however, the Saudi government accepted a Jordanian ambassador, but has not named a new ambassador to Amman.

The Saudi envoy who was received by the King on Sunday was described by the sources as a leading member of the Saudi royal family. One source identified the envoy as Prince Turki Al Faysal, but it could not be immediately confirmed.

According to the sources, the King and the Saudi envoy reviewed Jordanian-Saudi relations and the sudden twist in the Middle East situation brought in by the defection of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraq's minister of industry and minerals, along with his wife Raghad, President Saddam's eldest daughter, and his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil, and his wife Rana, the second daughter of the Iraqi president. Jordan has given them asylum.

Closer details of the discussions were not immediately available.

Jordan has improved its relations with Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain which along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Mr. al-Kabariti told a Kuwaiti newspaper last week that he expected ties with Kuwait also to improve soon.

A report that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Sabah called Mr. al-Kabariti over the phone on Sunday could not be immediately confirmed.

King Receives U.S. Central Command Chief

JN1208202795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today received General Binford Peay III, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Central Command, in the presence of His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and defense minister, and Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al- Ka'abinah, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. During the meeting, the regional situation in general, spheres of cooperation and coordination, and matters of joint interest were reviewed.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

The commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command arrived in Amman at noon today on a brief visit that lasted several hours. He was welcomed and seen off at the Amman civilian airport by Staff Gen. 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, chief of staff of the Royal Air Force, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

UK Minister of State for Armed Forces Arrives

JN1308211295 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 13 Aug 95

[From "The News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nichols Soames, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, began a visit to Jordan which will include talks on the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

A statement by the British Embassy said Britain will continue to strive for a political and diplomatic solution to the war in the former Yugoslavia.

The statement said Britain remains eager to maintain its close and regular contacts with Jordan, which is one of the major contributors to the UN forces in Croatia.

The British minister told News at Ten that the situation in the former Yugoslavia has reached a defining moment. He said the issue will be among others he will discuss with the king and high ranking officials.

[Begin recording] [Soames] In respect of Iraq, and I shall be very much looking forward to hearing what his

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majesty has to say about it [audio and video abruptly edited]

[Unidentified correspondent] How do you view the mission of the UN peace-keeping forces in former Yugoslavia, especially after the situation in Croatia now?

[Soames] Well, this is one of the things that we've come to discuss with his majesty. And, the prime minister, my prime minister, John Major, has sent to the king a personal letter which I am, will have a chance to discuss with his majesty here. Plainly, events have reached a defining moment in the former Yugoslavia. There are a number of opportunities and dangers that lie ahead, and it's very important that we discuss with other troop-contributing nations and our friends in the Middle East about the way ahead. And I shall be looking forward to do that over the next two days.

[Correspondent] Are there any new moves toward settling the conflict there?

[Soames] Well, there are some proposals, as you may have heard, that have been put forward by the Americans. And I shall look forward to hearing his majesty's reactions to these proposals. [end recording]

Focuses on Bosnia, Iraq During Visit

JN1508102495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—British Minister of State for the Armed Forces Nicholas Soames left Amman for Saudi Arabia on Monday [14 August] after conveying to His Majesty King Husayn a message from Prime Minister John Major over the situation in former Yugoslavia and the recent developments in Iraq.

The Jordan News Agency, PETRA, said the King reiterated to Mr. Soames Jordan's "position that calls for a consolidation of efforts by the international community to end the Bosnian tragedy and the suffering of the Bosnian people."

Mr. Soames told a press conference before departure from Amman that he discussed with Jordanian officials the issue of the defection to Jordan of former Iraqi Minister of Industry Husayn Kamil Hasan and his wife, daughter of President Saddam Husayn. But he said he did not contact Lieutenant-General Hasan.

The defection "will greatly damage the Iraqi regime," Mr. Soames said. It is an "extremely significant event," he said.

A British official accompanying Mr. Soames said the defection of Gen. Hasan along with his brother and his wife, also a daughter of President Saddam, represented a "substantial blow" to the Iraqi regime.

"The defection struck at the heart (of the Iraqi regime). At least 70 percent of (President Saddam's) family" has abandoned him, said Andrew Green, under-secretary for Middle East affairs at the British Foreign Office.

Mr. Soames indicated Britain would come to the help of Jordan in the event of Iraq retaliating militarily against Jordan's decision to grant asylum to Gen. Hasan.

"Britain's record speaks for itself," he said.

Mr. Green said it would take at least several months before the sanctions on Iraq are lifted.

Mr. Soames, who was accompanied on the visit by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Warttan, said he came to Jordan to discuss with the King efforts to solve the Bosinian crisis and "get his views and guidance on how we should proceed."

In an arrival statement Sunday, he also said the personal message also deals with the "situation in Iraq."

Mr. Soames said that a "window of opportunity" for solving the conflict in former Yugoslavia has emerged as a result of the "Croatian advances that have altered the map" and the latest U.S. initiative to end the hostilities. The American initiative, which has the full support of Britain, has incentives for all sides, Mr. Soames said.

During a meeting with journalists at the residence of the British ambassador early Monday, Mr. Soames sought to defend the British and Western Approach towards the conflict in Bosnia as the only realistic path for ending the war that has pitted the Serbs against Bosnian Muslims and Croats.

The West has come under fire from Arab and Muslim countries for failing to take effective measures to end what many described as the genocide of the Bosnian Muslims at the hands of the Serbs.

The latest Serb attacks on areas declared safe havens by the United Nations fueled Arab and Muslim anger at the West and the United nations mission, which has been castigated for its "impotence" in checking the Serb aggression.

"We share the frustration" over the continued war in Bosnia, said Mr. Soames, who arrived in Jordan Sunday on the first leg of a four- country tour that includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Morocco. But he said that there is "a bit of misunderstanding" in the Arab world of the West's policies towards Bosnia.

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The British official brushed aside suggestions the war in Bosnia is a religious war, insisting that it is a multi-ethnic conflict and adding that Britain aims to end the fighting within the context of a multi-ethnic state.

Mr. Soames, who also had talks with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on bilateral ties and the situation in Yugoslavia, said that his tour of the region was prompted by Britain's alarm at what he described as the lack of appreciation and understanding of its efforts to find a "just and lasting solution" to the war in the rump Yugoslavia.

He said Britain never abandoned its responsibility in former.

The British official reiterated Western views that there can be no military solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia and that a diplomatic settlement is the only realistic approach.

He said the United Nations mission in former Yugoslavia is strictly aimed at "keeping the peace" and that its forces will not become a party to the fighting.

Mr. Soames also defended his country's position in refusing to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia, saying such a move will only lead to an escalation of hostilities.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference frustrated with the future of the U.N. to protect Bosnian Muslims, last month said it considers the arms embargo invalid and urged its lifting.

New Boycott Law Dealing With 'Enemy' Effective 16 Aug

JN1208202395 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 12 Aug (PETRA)—The law on economic boycott and ban on dealing with the enemy will be implemented as of next Wednesday [16 August] after a royal decree was issued endorsing it.

The new law, which was approved by the Jordanian House of Representatives recently, will lift the boycott on 1,000 companies from various parts of the world that have been blacklisted in implementation of the rules of the Arab boycott of Israel.

According to this law, Jordan will suspend its activities in the Arab Boycott of Israel Office.

Army Investigating Infiltration Attempt

JN1308115395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—An Armed Forces spokesman said Saturday that the army was investigating Israeli claims that three men carrying rifles, guns and ammunition infiltrated into Israel from the northern Jordan Valley. Earlier, the Israeli army said Saturday it had captured an armed guerrilla who crossed into Israel from Jordan. "An infiltrator who crossed the border from Jordan to Israel was arrested and many weapons were seized today in the area of Argeman settlement in the Jordan Valley," an army statement said. It said troops seized 30 pistols and three rifles smuggled into Israel from Jordan. Israel radio said one of the guns was engraved with the name of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The Jordanian army spokesman said the army was informed of the incident through the Jordan-Israel liaison office. "We are carrying out an investigation to find out the exact number of infiltrators and other information about them," the spokesman, who cannot be identified under army rules, said. "Our duty s to keep Jordan's borders safe and secure," he said.

Qaddumi Demands Halt to Self-Rule Talks

JN1508105795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 95 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Odeh Odeh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official on Monday [13 August] called on the Palestinian leadership to halt the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and to conduct a comprehensive review of the developments since the signing of the Oslo accords two years ago.

Addressing a press conference in Amman, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political Department, demanded that the United States formally recognise the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Qaddumi, who presented to the press his own programme for peace, said that two years after the signing of the Oslo accords "we find Israel adamant in its position, totally disregarding the deadlines for implementing the provisions of the agreement and failing to honour its commitments concerning the withdrawal of its forces from the West Bank in a clear bid to perpetuate its occupation of Arab lands."

Accusing Arab countries of apathy towards the Palestine question, Mr. Qaddumi said that the Oslo accord had given "some Arabs a pretext to normalise their ties with the Jewish state with the result that the PLO has lost all out Arab support for the Palestine cause."

Mr. Qaddumi said that while at the beginning the Europeans supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, "they are now offering mere economic

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and financial support" for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Noting that the PLO had made several overtures to the United States, he said Washington "seems to be under the influence of the Jewish lobby in the United States and the Israeli Government."

Mr. Qaddumi rejected any separation between the Palestinian is living in the occupied territories and those living abroad, stressing that they form a "united nation" represented by the PLO wherever they might be." [sentence as published]

Mr. Qaddumi said the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations should be stopped immediately unless the process is sponsored by the international community so that the Palestinians would not be "forced to make further concessions and yield to Israel's demands which can lead to no peace at all."

Mr. Qaddumi said the PNA should not be transformed into a "tool for suppressing people for the sake of ensuring security for Israel." He stressed that the PLO should be safeguarded as the political and legislative body behind the PNA.

He called for the creation of a PNA of "national personalities" living inside the occupied lands, with the PLO's Executive Committee shouldering the responsibility of negotiations over the final stage with Israel.

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Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee Meets

Al-Zu'bi, Sidqi Discuss Agenda

JN1408141395 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 14 Aug (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this morning.

The meeting was attended by Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; 'Isa Darwish, Syrian ambassador in Cairo. On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister; Muhammad Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy; and Mahmud 'Ali Shukri, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and the agenda of the Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee.

Meetings Open

JN1408170095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Meetings of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee opened at the Prime Ministry at noon today. The meetings were cochaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi. The meetings were attended on the Syrian side by Rashid Akhatarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad Salman, minister of information; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Muhammad Ghassan al-Halabi, minister of education; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance; 'Ali Khalil, minister of social affairs and labor; Muhammad Amin Abu-al-Shamat, minister of tourism; Dr. Danhu Dawud, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Yahya Abu-'Asali, minister of local administration; Dr. Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral wealth; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs; Dr. Salihah Sunqur, minister of higher education; Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, minister of industry; Engineer Munib Sa'im al-Dahr, minister of electricity; Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant minister of state for planning affairs; Dr. 'Isa Darwish, Syria's ambassador in Cairo; and a number of advisers and technicians.

The meetings were attended on the Egyptian side by Dr. Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Engineer Muhammad Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy; Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz, minister of finance; Dr. Ahmad Radwan, minister of cabinet affairs; Dr. Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad Sharif, minister of local administration; Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din, minister of education; Dr. Hamdi 'Ali al-Banbi, minister of petroleum; Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation; Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, minister of economy and foreign trade; Ahmad Ahmad al-'Amawi, minister of manpower and employment; Mahmud 'Ali Shukri, Egypt's ambassador in Damascus; and a number of advisers and technicians.

At the beginning of the session, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi welcomed Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his delegation. He wished them good stay in Syria. He said: For some time, Syria has been looking forward to your kind visit, optimistic about the the two sisterly countries' march of integration and coordination, the solid foundations of which have been established by the two countries' leaders—Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He added that all Arabs pin their hopes on Syria and Egypt, because they are two powerful countries that have jointly fought all pan-Arab battles and are now waging the peace battle. He said: Having waged wars with a fair and comprehensive cause, the two countries must achieve a just and comprehensive solution in the peace battle.

The prime minister said: Israel's vision of peace differs from ours. Israel wants to take advantage of Arab divisions and of the unstable international situation to acquire lands, impose capitulation, and achieve hegemony. He added: In Syria, we want our territory and every occupied Arab territory restored. We want to achieve peace based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. We want to prevent any hegemony of any kind in the region.

The prime minister said: Despite Syria's constant positive stands and continued response to the international proposals made to help maintain the peace process, Israel continues its procrastination and maneuvers. Israel wants to place us in a cycle of contradictory words and deeds. He added: During the talks that took place in Washington, Israel continued to circumvent the substantive issues to waste time and effort. Despite the Israeli maneuvers, Syria, under the leadership of president Hafiz al-Asad, does not agree to relinquish an inch of territory or an iota of pan-Arab dignity. Syria will remain a country working carefully and honestly to restore the usurped Arab rights and the territory occupied in 1967, and to build a just, comprehensive peace on bases ensuring rights, justice, and dignity.

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The prime minister said: In this session of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee, we have an agenda requiring from us further efforts and a review of the distinguished steps that have been taken. The agenda also requires proposals responsive to the requirements of our integration process. We are confident that our faith in our joint objective will make us proceed strongly and determinedly to make the Syrian-Egyptian steps of coordination and integration meet the hopes of the one Arab people in Egypt and Syria and the sound directives of our two countries' leaders—Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

In his address, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi extended thanks to Syria—president, government, and people for the warm welcome accorded to him and his accompanying delegation. He said: In this meeting, we have a big agenda. We should focus on promoting and cementing bilateral cooperation and relations. This is a shared goal and desire in response to the directives of the two countries' leaders—Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak—who want Egypt and Syria to be the cornerstone of cooperation among sisterly Arab countries. Dr. Sidqi stressed Egypt's support for Syria's stand on the peace process and for the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace that enables Syria to fully restore its occupied territory and rights in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council without any conditions or shackles harming its sovereignty and dignity.

Dr. Sidqi paid tribute to all the efforts being exerted to restore amity and understanding among sisterly Arab countries. He said: During the meetings of this eighth session of the Higher Committee, our mission is extremely important. This is because the session coincides with colossal challenges necessitating that efforts be exerted to make the work of this session a success and to emerge with decisions in the interest of the two sisterly countries. I am confident about that because the two sides have a joint desire and honest intentions.

Afterward, the two sides reviewed the march of bilateral integration and coordination and the preparatory committee's draft decisions and agreements. It was agreed that meetings will continue on the level of bilateral committees between Syrian and Egyptian ministers to discuss ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation. The two sides then concluded their session.

Agreement Reached on Joint Oil Company

JN1408203595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 14 Aug (SANA) — Dr. Engineer Nadir Nabulsi, minister of oil and mineral resources, and Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, Egyptian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, agreed, during a meeting this morning, to the establishment of a joint Syrian-Egyptian company for oil services with a joint capital. The company will be working in the field of well drilling and maintenance and geophysical survey in Syria. [passage omitted]

Senior Official Views Peace, Nuclear Reactor

NC1408203395 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Aug 95 p 8

[Report by Sana' al-Sa'id in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] In important statements to AL-MUSAWWAR, a senior Syrian official has stressed that his country will not accept early warning stations on its territory because this runs counter to the concept of a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, as well as to the principle of sovereignty and national and pan-Arab dignity, and to the achievement of a just, honorable, and comprehensive peace.

Regarding Israel's insistence that military experts be sent to Washington as agreed upon with Christopher in June, the Syrian official said the dispatch of military experts was contingent upon the achievement of progress at the talks between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff. It is Israel that is rejecting talks at ambassadorial level and insisting on talks between military experts, even though the experts will find nothing to do or discuss, he said.

He added that Israel is giving the world the impression that it is working for peace when the fact is that it is only pretending. Syria, on the other hand, wants a real, just, and comprehensive peace that ends the occupation and the conflict and brings stability to the region, he said. He stressed that the U.S. position is well balanced and that it understands the Syrian viewpoint.

On Israel's recent efforts to block a deal for Argentina to sell Syria a nuclear reactor, the Syrian official said Israel is the last country able to deny others the right to obtain nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, because it has such technology itself and uses it for military purposes.

He said Israel's position means that it wants keep the Arabs from any scientific progress or economic and social development. The peace Israel wants is aimed

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at stultifying the Arabs and curbing their abilities, he said.

On Israel's claim that Syria's effort to obtain the Argentine reactor reflects Syria's desire for comprehensive nuclear development, the Syrian official said that Israel has no right to interfere no matter what the use of the reactor, especially since Israel possesses a huge nuclear arsenal and still refuses to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and accept international inspection. Syria, on the other hand, is a signatory of the NPT and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, he noted.

Commenting on efforts to restore Arab solidarity, the Syrian official said his country has supported Arab solidarity and will continue to do so.

On lifting the blockade against Iraq, he said that a unified Arab position making the Arabs basic parties to the international decision might help end the suffering of the Iraqi people in light of Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions. He added: If there was a truly serious desire to improve the Arab situation, it would be possible to embark on this effort at various levels and through small or expanded meetings as necessary. This would lead to bigger steps whose success would be guaranteed.

Asked why Syria did not mediate between Egypt and Sudan as it did between Saudi Arabia and Yemen, the Syrian official said: We were not asked to mediate. As for Saudi Arabia and Yemen, we found that the two sides were psychologically ready for mediation. This is why the mediation succeeded, and Syria indeed played an important and historic role.

Regarding fears that the United States may reduce its involvement in the peace process during the election year — next year — the Syrian official noted that the United States itself says that a comprehensive peace in the region is a top priority for its foreign policy. He added that Syria is very self-confident, especially since it is defending a just cause and has rights that it cannot relinquish.

Columnist Comments on Iraq's Recent Developments

JN1408110695 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial by 'Amid Khuli: "Sailors Abandon Ship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now is the right time to ask the familiar, traditional question, namely, what is happening in Iraq? However, we should use the past tense, what has happened in Iraq? We also ask what will happen in the future? What has happened in Iraq and more specifically, in the heart of the regime, and what is going to happen there in fact exceeds one's expectations and calculations. What happened in Iraq was so grave that a very significant part of the regime has thrown itself into the sea and abandoned ship.

Was it an erosion of the Iraqi regime's inner circle? Was it a fire in the regime's bedroom? Is this the beginning of a total collapse? Is it the big fall, the utter bankruptcy? Is it the beginning of the physical breakdown, given that the moral breakdown occurred a long time ago? The flesh has begun to rot.

All these are expressions are fit to describe what has happened. They are an attempt at grasping what will happen against the backdrop of what has already happened which is an appropriate introduction to a horrifying situation that is bound to create conditions in line with what prompted the daughters of the head of the regime to run away, either out of fear for their lives from their father, who has reached a critical stage of psychological illness where he wouldn't hesitate to kill his own daughters—a very rare case in history—or out of fear that the regime would soon be toppled, which also constitutes a threat to their lives as they, along with their husbands, share the plunders and dividends of the regime. Aren't they the daughters of Saddam?

It seems to me that the fact that Saddam's daughters, sisters of 'Udayy and Qusayy, have run away in a the blackness of night depicts the condition of the regime from the inside, which is just as black as that night. This is a condition that is horrifying in terms of evilness, despotism, bloodiness, and tyranny. It is far more serious than the mere fact that two high-ranking officials, who were very close to Saddam, have fled. The importance of the defectors underlines the seriousness of the event.

The fact that the two women defectors are Saddam's daughters makes what is going on inside the regime more intriguing, given that the two daughters and the sons-in-law are within Saddam's inner circle, in the upper echelons of power, that they are his flesh and blood, his own daughters.

His two daughters, and then his sons-in-law, who are the sailors, have decided to throw themselves into the sea seeking salvation. When the sailors and helmsman throw themselves into the sea, then this is an indication that the situation is desperate.

Perhaps these words are sufficently accurate to describe what is happening in Baghdad. Had it been possible to rectify matters, it would be difficult to imagine two daughters of Saddam running away from their father.

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There is another side to this pitch-black picture that is full of terror, death, and obsessions. If this man [Saddam Husayn] had the chance to liquidate them all in a fabricated incident, he would not hesitate for a single moment. One helicopter would be enough to bury them all, as frequently happened before and after the invasion.

However, it seems that this technique has been clearly exposed. It is no longer easy, or desirable, to arrange such incidents. This is because such incidents no longer fool anyone or it could be — and this is a serious possibility — that Saddam no longer has the tools of death in his hands, as he used to do all the time.

In any event, what happened in Baghdad is a tragic prelude for what will happen. All the above statements are a good description of what happened. It is an erosion of the inner circles; it is a fire in the bedroom; it is; etcetera. It is, in effect, throwing oneself into the water and jumping ship to save one's life. It is an escape from the circle of fire.

All these statements describe a situation which prevails in Baghdad and which is difficult to describe. This will make Saddam bloodier and more terrified. Saddam was stabbed in the heart by his two daughters and sons-in-law and he is bleeding. He will become as dangerous and bloody as the deep wound caused to him by their escape. He will become thirstier for bloodletting and he will take revenge. Out of his fear, he will not surrender easily and will not resign to his fate willingly.

Imagine the psychological state of mind of the head of the regime who sends his son to Amman to bring back his two daughters and their husbands, after they had all fled to escape from the regime and its oppression and before something else happens in the future.

Does he really think that they will return to Baghdad and that he will persuade them to go back to Baghdad? If that was possible or reasonable, then why did they flee in the first place? Will they go back to the lap of the regime which they have left fearing oppression?

This abnormal state of mind is the one that is dealing with the Iraqi people, who will pay a heavy price in the near future for the state of political, economic, and social bankruptcy in Iraq. This state is rare by all standards.

The regime's corruption has made it besieged by this well-known hostility by the people. Thus, the regime replied with more bloodletting, creating a vicious circle which deprived it of all options. The circle of oppression is getting narrower. It has hit the family, then the daughters, and the sons will follow.

Is this not what is happening in Iraq? What then? We might not have to wait for long.

Press: Israel Using 'Blackmailing Methods'

JN1308104495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on Israeli blackmailing methods, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Our understanding of the Israeli trickery has increased our confidence in our consistent position and insistence on our rights. Israel does not have good intentions. What is taking place around us confirms the credibility of the way we understand these intentions.

AL-BA'TH adds: We in Syria have done everything necessary to achieve peace. We participated in the Madrid conference and the Washington negotiations. We accepted the U.S. initiative, and the world is convinced that Syria wants a comprehensive peace as well as security for all and not for one party at the expense of others. Israel, however, wants us to give it territory, security, and peace.

The paper continues: Whether or not Israel claims that Syria is responsible for the obstruction, the one who adheres to justice will not place obstacles, and the one who calls for championing the international resolutions will not evade responsibility.

AL-BA'TH believes that once Israel recognizes all our rights and the international resolutions pertaining to the region it will meet with Syria's favorable response and thrust toward peace, so it will be a just, comprehensive, and durable peace.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the Israeli position on the peace process as well as the security pretexts Israel is using to evade the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The paper asserts that by citing its alleged security concerns in the past few years, Israel deliberately drowned the Washington bilateral talks in security problems and evaded the basic requirements of peace, led by withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. This has obstructed the talks and moved them in a vicious circle.

TISHRIN adds: Syria called for confronting this Israeli maneuver by taking a unified position based on adherence to the constants of a just and comprehensive peace and to the Security Council resolutions. However, some were dragged into the Israeli temptations and held secret talks which yielded the feeble Oslo agreement. This

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agreement ignores the Palestinian people's basic rights in the name of security.

The paper points out that Israel has not implemented any of the bases of peace or the Security Council resolutions. Israel has also dragged the Palestinian side into further concessions on the pretext of security.

TISHRIN adds that Israel tried to play the same misleading game on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. However, Israel met with the Syrian-Lebanese position which calls for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The paper points to Syria's approval of the security arrangements on condition that Israel withdraws fully, that these arrangements be even [muta'adilah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines, and that they will not maintain any Israeli presence in the Golan, no matter how small it may be.

TISHRIN adds that Israel's security concept is a trick and a wide deceptive maneuver. Security will be achieved along with the just and comprehensive peace and cannot be achieved outside this framework. Moreover, lame agreements which retain occupation in the name of security will not provide peace or security. Instead, they will keep the conflict in the region.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same topic. It says: The policy of evasion and intransigence Israel is pursuing with regard to the peace process, which is passing through a crucial and sensitive phase, will widen the existing gaps. This is particularly true if Israel continues its aggression and occupation of Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Peace is a will, and it needs a firm decision. Israel, however, has thus far not made such a decision. The paper wonders: Will the Israeli officials make a decision in favor of peace and move out of the vicious circle?

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH asserts that what Israel could not take and entrench through aggression and brute force will not be taken through politics and deception. This is because the Syrian constants, exactly like national and pan-Arab rights, are red lines, which not a single Syrian citizen can circumvent, sell out, or bargain over.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Sends Independence Day Message to India

LD1308170795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani has sent a message of congratulations to Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, president of the Republic of India, and Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister of that country, on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of India's independence.

I am pleased to express the best and cordial congratulations to your excellencies and — through you — to the people and government of the Republic of India on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of India's independence on behalf of myself and the state and the people of Afghanistan. The Islamic State of Afghanistan respects the friendly, traditional, and historic good relations with the Republic of India. I am confident that these relations will expand in the interest of the people of the two countries and the consolidation of peace and stability in the region. Taking this opportunity, I wish you good health and the people of India of prosperity and progress.

Sends Independence Day Message to Pakistan

LD1308164995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the independence of Pakistan, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has sent a message of congratulations to the president and the prime minister of Pakistan.

I am pleased to express the best congratulations to you and — through you —to the people and government of Pakistan on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the independence of your country, on behalf of myself and the state and the people of Afghanistan. The Islamic State of Afghanistan greatly values friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan because of the deep Islamic, historic, and cultural relations between the people of both countries, and hopes that on the basis of the sincere efforts of the two sides, these relations will further expand in the interest of the people of both countries and of the consolidation of peace and stability in the region. Taking this opportunity, I wish you good health and the people of Pakistan prosperity and progress.

Taleban Demands MIA List Before Hostage Release

BK1308142895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KANDAHAR, Afghanistan, Aug 1 (AFP) — The Taleban religious movement has demanded that Moscow provide a list of those still missing from the Afghan war before it releases seven Russian hostages.

Meanwhile, a diplomat from the Russian embassy in Islamabad left on Sunday [13 August] for Kandahar in southern Afghanistan where the hostages have been held since August 3 when the cargo plane they were travelling in was forced down on its way to Kabul.

The head of the Taleban executive committee, Mullah Mohammad Omar, told AFP late Saturday that he had asked for the names of "intellectuals, mojahedin, and Ulema (religious dignitaries) who disappeared during the Jihad (holy war).

The Taleban believe that Afghans who disappeared during the war against the former Soviet Union from 1979 and 1989 may have been taken to Russia, and may still be there.

Mullah 'Ali Khan, who was in charge of guarding the prisoners, said that the list of the missing was not an absolute precondition for their release, but that "it would help."

The Taleban say that the fate of the seven men will be put to a Shura (council), which will decide whether to release the men or send them before an Islamic tribunal.

One of the hostages, Victor Rizanov, 46, who has had a heart attack, is in a "very serious condition," according to a Russian doctor allowed to examine him.

Rizanov has been transferred to clinic run by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Taleban allege that the ammunition and arms in the Russian cargo plane were destined for the Kabul government.

Rabbani Reportedly Asks Russia for Military Aid

LD1408182895 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabbani, head of the Kabul coalition administration, has asked for military assistance from the Russian Federation Government. According to news agency reports, the head of the coalition administration recently asked the Russian Federation Government for military assistance to deal with his

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government's opponents. The reports say that this was revealed in a Russian language program in July [words indistinct]. The program claimed that Rabbani has asked the Russians to give him military assistance so that he can crush [words indistinct] and the Taleban. The reports say that the Russian leaders have promised the coalition administration all cooperation.

Rabbani Reportedly Visits Front Lines in North Salang

LD1108181295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to a report from the BAKHTAR, this afternoon, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani visited the front lines in North Salang. [passage omitted]

The esteemed president conversed with commanders and mojahedin in Dushakh, Charmazdak, and the frontlines of North Salang. He commended their firmness and bravery in the defense of independence, consolidation of the Islamic system, and restoration of peace.

According to a report from the BAKHTAR, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, the country's president, accompanied by his entourage delegation, arrived in Parwan Province this morning. In Charikar city, he was welcomed by the governor of Parwan Province, the leadership of this province, and the people of Parwan. He then left for South Salang.

In Salang District, the esteemed president was warmly welcomed by the mojahid and brave people of Salang. He offered Friday [11 August] prayers, led by him, in South Salang. In the Friday prayer's sermon, the esteemed president spoke in detail about the heroic struggles of the people of Afghanistan against the Soviet occupiers and the communist regime and pointed to the need for peace and stability in the country. Reiterating the consolidation of peace, the esteemed president expressed the hope that the ground will be prepared for the fulfillment of social services and the elimination of difficulties facing our persecuted and deprived people in various areas of Afghanistan.

Islamic Army Seizes 8 Dostam Militia Positions

LD1208185895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] BIA, quoting a source of the armed forces, reports that the forces of the Islamic army last night seized eight positions of Dostam's militia in North Salang.

During the operation, 16 militiamen were killed and a number were injured. The armed forces units also seized several enemy heavy and light weapons and a quantity of ammunition.

According to another report from Badghis Province, 300 armed men of the opposition forces, along with their weapons, came over to the side of the Islamic army today.

'Ringleader' in Dostam's Forces Killed in Fighting

LD1308185295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dostam's six commanders and their 200 men defected to the Islamic State in Samangan province yesterday. Reports reaching the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY say that yesterday commanders Mohammad Salim, Aghajan, Shaykh Mohammad Yusuf, Mohammad Rafe, Gholam Nabi, Mulla Zaman, Sayd 'Ali, and Mohammad Nawruz left the Dostam militia and joined the Islamic army forces. The defectors were armed with different kinds of weapons. According to another report, a Dostam commander in the 108th Brigade by the name of Gol Mohammad and his 100 men joined the Islamic army forces in Jowzjan.

[Words indistinct] Ahmad Shah, known as Sayaf, a member of the militia's central council was injured and lost a leg in a mine blast. Six militia were killed and five others injured in the incident.

According to another report Lieutenant-General Ruzi Berdi, a famous ringleader of the Dostam militia, was killed in Khenjan yesterday. Reports reaching the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY say that following consecutive defeats and suffering loss of life and material, yesterday Lt.-Gen. Ruzi Berdi, the commander of the 70th Division of Dostam's militia, was killed and another commander, Major-General Panji, was injured. The report adds that the militia refused to give the bodies of the dead members to their families and bury them in Pol-e Khomri and Kaylahgay.

HCC Reportedly Makes Important Gains in Salang

LD1408194295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Coordination Council [HCC] forces have captured two important strategic positions in Salang and they have killed a number of armed men and captured some others, said a representative of the National Movement representative in an interview in Peshawar. He said that the Kabul administration claims about the fighting in Jowzjan are baseless. The province is under the complete control of the HCC forces. On the visit of the head of the Kabul administration to Salang, he said that Rabbani had only been

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to Jabal os Saraj and that northern Salang is under the control of the HCC forces. He said it is impossible for Rabbani to visit that area. He added that recently two important and strategic positions were captured during fighting against the Kabul administration's armed forces in northern Salang. Nine of the armed men were killed and 14 others were taken prisoner. A large quantity of light and heavy weapons was also captured. [Words indistinct]

Islamic Forces Mount Counterattack, Capture Forts

LD1408181795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A militia offensive was repulsed in Qara'i, Samangan Province, 13 August. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that the Islamic Army forces and the mojahedin mounted a counterattack after repulsing the militia offensive. As a result, two militia fortifications were captured, eight militiamen were killed, and a quantity of light and heavy weapons were seized.

A report from Andarab District, Baghlan Province, says that Major General Mohammad Naser, commander of the 176th Brigade, and 50 of his men have defected to Islamic rule. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Naser is a famous Dostam commander and his men are armed with light and heavy weapons. He promised to fight against the rebellious militia with the Islamic Army forces. The defectors were welcomed by officials of the 70th Division in Andarab.

Bangladesh

Dhaka Reiterates Bosnia Stand, Said 'Hopeful'

BK1308152695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has reiterated its stand on the Bosnian issue and called for protecting the rights of the people of Bosnia to defend themselves. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen in Dhaka today that Bangladesh is watching the situation in the former Yugoslavia and supports lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia. He said Dhaka is hopeful that the situation in Bosnia will improve soon.

The spokesman said that Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan will arrive in Dhaka on 15 August for a three-day visit to Bangladesh. During his stay here, he will hold bilateral talks with Bangladeshi foreign secretary. He will also call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Mirza Golam Hafiz, minister for law and parliamentary affairs.

Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare will arrive in Dhaka on 25 August on a three-day visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of the president and prime minister.

The spokesman said that the second special meeting of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] standing committee is scheduled to be held in New Delhi beginning 25 August. Among other things, discussions on organizational matters and programs of the SAARC will be held at this two-day meeting. The activities of the technical committees, the role of the SAARC secretariat, and the [words indistinct] scheme of the forum will also be reviewed.

Cabinet Sets Up 'Bosnian Muslim Solidarity Fund'

BK1408153495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A cabinet meeting was held at the Bangabhaban [President House] in Dhaka today. It was presided over by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The meeting expressed solidarity with the Bosnian Muslims and decided to set up a fund called the Prime Minister's Bosnian Muslim Solidarity Fund to collect donations to assist the Bosnian Muslims. The meeting decided that the prime minister will donate one month's worth of her salary to this fund. It was also decided that ministers, state ministers, and deputy ministers will donate seven days' worth of their salaries to this fund. An account has been opened in the Sonali Bank to collect donations for this fund.

The meeting also approved the proposals to amend the Insurance Act of 1938 and Insurance Corporation Act of 1973.

Daily Criticizes UN, U.S. for Stand on Bosnia

BK1408163495 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 31 Jul 95 p 1

[From the "Political Theater" column by Rupokar]

[FBIS Translated Text] There are currently two major slaughterhouses in this world. One is Bosnia-Herzegovina in Europe, while the other is Kashmir in South Asia. Christian Serbs are the main killers in the Bosnian slaughter house. Their chief patron is Russia, which is a Christian country, while their main supporters are the Christian countries — the United States, England, and the Western world.

The killer in South Asia is India. India's invisible patrons are the Jews, Israel, and England. The (?future) prime minister of India and L.K. Advani, Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] chief, left for Israel on a visit on 25 July. It has been learned that the purpose of this visit is to establish greater unity and cooperation between the

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Research and Analysis Wing—the intelligence agency of India—and Mossad, the Jewish intelligence agency.

The merciless soldiers of India have so far killed 27,000 freedom-loving Kashmiri Muslims. In Kashmir, the Indians are playing a game of bloodletting. They will stay there until the last voice of the freedom fighters is stifled. There is an unprecedented similarity between the Congress, the BJP, and the bloodthirsty Jews. This visit is being made to forge an unholy alliance.

Bosnia is being flooded with Muslim blood. After the fall of the Muslim enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa, Serbian killers launched an attack on the biggest Muslim enclave of Bihac. Seventeen thousand Muslims of Zepa have been besieged by the Serbian Christian forces. Many Muslim families are fleeing toward the distant hills. The greatest bloodbath of recent times has taken place in Bosnia. A news report published by a Western news agency said that about 200,000 Muslims are missing since the campaign to exterminate the Muslims began in Bosnia about four years back. These people have been either killed or taken prisoner. It is unbelievable that 200,000 people have been imprisoned.

There were 319 Dutch soldiers in the so-called UN peacekeeping force in Srebrenica. They have narrated a gruesome tale of genocide in Srebrenica. They said that dead bodies were strewn all over this Muslim enclave. There were piles of dead bodies in some places. The Dutch defense minister said that he has seen hundreds of people being arrested and taken toward the (Bratunia) Stadium. It is believed that this stadium will become another execution place. The Serbian Christians will probably stockpile the dead bodies of the Muslims who will be killed by Serb bayonets and bury them there.

Even the Western media is now saying that mass killings are continuing in the Muslim areas that have been forcibly occupied by the brute Serb forces. These secret killings are aimed at destroying the majority status of the Muslims.

The 319-member Dutch peacekeeping force has returned since the fall of Srebrenica. News reports say that the children have returned home. Hence, they are overwhelmed with joy. Now the question arises: Why did they go to Bosnia? Why did the United Nations sent foreign troops to Bosnia? Did they go there to breathe air? Serb gentlemen will arrive in Srebrenica displaying their audacity, and the UN forces will receive them with flower garlands. What was the purpose? Were they waiting there to accord reception to the bloodthirsty Serbian Christians with flower garlands? Or were they sent there to resist the attack of the occupation forces? They were sent to ensure the security of the Muslim enclaves. The Serbs entered like a hero, but the security agents saluted the killer forces and left the place, thus clearing the path for them to enter. The 20-nation Contact Group held its meeting in London. This conference was also attended by Bangladesh. It is not known whether anyone has ever heard such an excellent speech encouraging aggression during this century. The British minister sternly said: "Listen you discourteous Serbs. If you turn your eyes toward Gorazde, then your eyes will be gouged out." What does this threat mean? It means: "Let Srebrenica, Zepa, and Bihac be ruined. Rejoice for capturing these places, but be careful. I warn you about Gorazde."

One of the spy thrillers of James Bond is "License To Kill". The London conference was of this category. It gave the "License To Mount Assaults and Conquer."

The hellish destruction caused by the Bosnian Serbs not only nakedly exposed the hypocrisy of the Western world but also that of the United States. The United States claims that it is the birthplace of freedom, equality, and fraternity. It also claims that it is the champion of democracy and human rights in the world, but it has now been nakedly exposed that they are hypocritical. The believers, particularly the Muslims, have come to know that even the person occupying the highest office of the presidency can be a hypocrite. President Clinton has said for a long time that Bosnians have the right to self-defense. Clinton's hypocrisy was revealed when his opponent, the Republican Party, particularly its leader Bob Dole, introduced a bill to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia. He not only opposed this bill but also threatened to exercise a presidential veto if the bill was adopted. When the bill Dole introduced was passed by such a large majority of votes, Clinton did not have the courage to expose before the people of the world the deceitful character of the United States by exercising his veto.

The United Nations was founded 50 years ago. First, the League of Nations was formed with a view to protect the weak from the oppression of the mighty and to ensure that all countries of the world respect each other's sovereignty. Later, the United Nations was formed. The United Nations is going to celebrate its diamond jubilee after 50 years. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed has given a call to boycott this 50th anniversary celebration. At the same time, he has demanded the removal of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Mahathir has also called for a constitution of a Muslim United Nations to counter the United Nations. In fact, the Malaysian prime minister's voice has reflected the

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collective voice of 1.15 billion Muslims. What is the purpose of the United Nations? Who is the United Nations for? What is its success? Why should there be celebrations? The United Nations has served the interests of the great powers during the past 50 years. This organization has followed the dictates of the United States and the Soviet Union for the past 50 years. The United Nations has been an instrument in the hands of the Americans during the past half a century.

During the past four years, Butrus-Ghali worked as an agent and slave of the Americans. The killer Serbian forces have wiped out 2 million Bosnian Muslims from the world. Bosnia-Herzegovina is an independent country that is recognized by the United Nations. Since Butrus-Ghali became United Nations secretary general, 2 million Muslims have been killed. A collective voice should be raised to demand his immediate removal.

The 1.25 billion unfortunate Muslims of the world should look not only at Bosnia but also toward the world map. They will see that the genocide is continuing in all Muslim countries in the decade of the 90's. The places of the world where human beings are suffering from extreme miseries are all Muslim homes. At present, the oppressed are the Muslims while the oppressors are the Christians, Jews, and the Hindus.

Let us look at Africa. The United States is utilizing the United Nations as its slave and has let loose the steamroller of oppression against one country. That country is Libya. Libya's fault is that it is a Muslim country. Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi's fault is that he wants to hold aloft the flag of Islam in different countries of the world. The other country in Africa is Somalia; 98 percent of the people of this country are Muslims. This vast country has a population of 7 million. The United Nations also interfered in the internal affairs of Somalia.

Now let us look toward Europe. Spain was ruled by Muslims. The rest of Christian Europe forged unity to destroy this Muslim kingdom and was able to topple it. In Europe, another Muslim country has now come into being. This country is Bosnia-Herzegovina. Perhaps, many people do not know that since the fall of communism in Russia the clergy has been exercising its tremendous influence in that country. Russia, which has come under the influence of the clergy, has become militarily strong with the assistance of its Christian allies—the United States and England. Today the Christians of Europe have formed a syndicate to crush Bosnia—which is the only Muslim country in Europe.

The Muslim brothers and sisters of Bangladesh should now look toward the map of West Asia. There is only one country in this region whose 60 million people unitedly launched a revolution to topple monarchy and established Islamic rule. This country is Iran. Since the beginning of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the United States tried to nip the revolution in the bud. Today 15 years has already passed, but the wickedness of the United States has still not ended. Having failed to subdue Iran, the United States, which is the ring leader of the Western nations, launched an attack on Iraq. During the war of 1991, the forces of the United States and its Western allies crushed the economic and military strength of Iraq. They directly killed 200,000 people. The United States and the Western nations have hatched a conspiracy to slowly kill the remaining 20 million people of this country.

Let us now look toward the map of South Asia. In Kashmir, 5 million Kashmiri Muslims are being oppressed by 600,000 Indian soldiers. Since 1990, a total of 25,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been brutally killed by non-Muslim Indian soldiers. The Western world is a silent spectator to the worst genocide of the century being committed by Indian soldiers. On the other hand, clergy-dominated Russia is providing assistance for the commission of this genocide.

Let us now look toward Pakistan, which is one of the leading countries of South Asia. This country has an area of 303,000 square miles and a population of 120 million people; 97 percent of the people of this country are Muslims. Since the beginning of the decade of the 90's, the Anglo-U.S. group has started a loathsome conspiracy to totally cripple this country. Being supported by this group, India has also appeared in the field.

Let us now look back at Africa. Algeria has a total area of 950,000 square miles and a population of 20 million people; 98 percent of its population are Muslims. The Islamic Salvation Front was heading for a landslide victory in the national elections after winning the local elections, but the Western nations instigated the military rulers of that country to crush the victory of Islam. Thus, the Russian-U.S. alliance has come forward to burn the green flag of the Islamic revolution in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Muslims are being killed everywhere today. How long will they be beaten like this? Several revolutionary organizations have shown them a new path. This path has been shown by the Hamas of Palestine, Intifadah and Hezbollah of Lebanon and Palestine, and the mojahedin of Afghanistan. The mujahideen of Kashmir have lit the torch of revolution. The path has also been shown by Iran and Libya. This path has also been demonstrated by the Bosnians. What about us, the Bangladeshis? India

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has stifled our voice. Will we allow them to beat us? Will we not follow the path shown? Come, let us sing the song of the revolutionary Nazrul [Bengali poet]:

It is burning everywhere
Rising is Islam's
Red torch
Oh unmindful, get up
Awaken and kindle the
Lamp in our heart

PRC, Southeast Asian Road Link Said Planned

BK1508051695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh is to be connected by road with Burma, China, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore to promote its trade and economic growth. Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said this while talking to BSS in Dhaka yesterday. He said mutual relations among Asian countries will be strengthened if there is a direct road network for this region.

Referring to domestic communications network, Mr. Oli Ahmed said the entire country has been brought under the system with Dhaka already linked with all district headquarters and 430 police stations. He stressed that the network will link national highways and the proposed international road link. The communications minister said the government expects to receive foreign financial assistance for the remaining work for the Dhaka-Mawa-Khulna Road, the Dhaka-Sylhet-(Tamabel) Road and the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

India

Continued Reportage on Kashmir Hostage Situation

Muslim Group Extends Deadline 24 Hours

BK1508040895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0353 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 15 (AFP) — The Muslim separatist group holding four Western hostages in Kashmir has extended by 24 hours a deadline for India to release imprisoned 15 Muslim militants, official source said Tuesday [15 August].

Al-Faran, which killed a Norwegian hostage over the weekend and threatened to kill the other four Westerners if its demand was not met, agreed to extend the deadline from Tuesday morning to Wednesday morning, the sources said.

They said the 24-hour extension was granted at the request of the Indian authorities.

An Indian spokesman confirmed Monday that contact had been made with the kidnappers following the killing of Norwegian tourist Hans- Christian Ostro, whose body was discovered in a remote Kashmir village on Sunday.

A note from Al-Faran attached to the body warned that the other hostages — two Britons, an American and a German — would also be killed if the Indian authorities failed to release the 15 jailed Muslim militants by Tuesday.

Indian officials have repeatedly ruled out releasing any of the 15 jailed Muslim militants in exchange for the hostages.

But sources close to the authorities here said a "covert deal" could lead to the freeing of five Kashmiri Muslim militants on the list of 15 prisoners whose release is being sought by Al-Faran.

Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao was to discuss the hostage crisis later Tuesday at a meeting to be held here following official celebrations marking India's Independence Day, officials said.

Government, Abductors Reestablish Contact

BK1408130095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has again appealed to the Al-Faran militant outfit to release the remaining four hostages unharmed. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this afternoon that the militants should see reason and set the innocent tourists free without any delay. He said the killing of the Norwegian tourist has evoked worldwide condemnation and even the militant organizations and the Hurriyat Conference have condemned the gruesome act. The spokesman said the government has reestablished its contact with the abductors through some mediators and is trying to persuade the militants to release the remaining four foreign tourists immediately. The spokesman confirmed that a note written in Urdu was recovered from the body of the killed tourist, but clarified that the militants have set no deadline in the note for fulfilling their demands.

Meanwhile, the body of the Norwegian tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro, was brought to New Delhi today. Senior officials of the government, diplomats from Norway, Britain, and the United States were present at Palam Airport to receive the body. The Norwegian tourist was killed by his captors in Kashmir Valley yesterday.

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'Crisis Management Group' Meets

BK1408162095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The crisis management group headed by the cabinet secretary met in New Delhi today to take stock of the situation arising out of the killing of the Norwegian tourist by terrorists in the Kashmir Valley yesterday. The home secretary, chiefs of intelligence agencies, and other senior Home Ministry officials attended the meeting. According to an official spokesman, the government is continuing its efforts to get the remaining four foreign tourists released. It is also keeping in constant touch with the envoys of these countries whose nationals are still being held as hostages by the Kashmiri militants.

The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, called on the family members of Mr. Ostro at the Norwegian Embassy today and shared their grief.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, in a telephonic conversation with his Norwegian counterpart, Mr. Bjorn Tore Godal, said that the safety of hostages has been given paramount importance by the Indian Government while it was trying to resolve the hostage problem.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has again appealed to the Al- Faran militant outfit to release the remaining four hostages unharmed. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this afternoon that the militants should see reason and set the innocent tourists free without any delay. He said the killing of the Norwegian tourist has evoked worldwide condemnation and even militant organizations and the Hurriyat Conference have condemned the gruesome act.

The National Human Rights Commission has expressed shock at the killing of the Norwegian tourist. Condemning the incident, the commission demanded the Al-Faran group to immediately release the remaining four foreign tourists.

Meanwhile, the body of the Norwegian tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro, was brought to New Delhi today. It was first taken to the Army Hospital and was later shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where postmortem will be carried out.

High Commissioner Interviewed on Hostage Situation

MS1508092895 London ITV Television Network in English 1800 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Interview with Dr. Lakshmi Mal Singhvi, Indian high commissioner in London, at his London office, by Zeinab Badawi on 14 August; from the "Channel Four News" program — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Badawi] What is the outcome of the Indian authorities' contact with Al-Faran group?

[Singhvi] Contact only means that we are trying to make them see reason, contact means that we would like reason to prevail, contact means that we would like to bring some sense of sanity. It does not mean a change of policy in respect of the release of the prisoners, whose release the militants are demanding.

[Badawi] And have your contacts today brought you any closer to realizing those aims?

[Singhvi] One doesn't know, because firstly we are talking to people who's strongpoint is not reason, but violence, we are talking to people who are holed up in a terrain which is 11,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level, we are talking to people who are holding these hostages at point-blank range, and we cannot afford to risk the lives of the hostages. Nothing is dearer to us than the cause of saving their lives.

[Badawi] Your Government has not ruled out the possibility, as far as we understand it, of mounting a raid to rescue the remaining hostages. How likely is that?

[Singhvi] We have to work in close consultation and concert with the governments of the countries from which nationals have been taken as hostages. We do not wish to do this as some kind of an adventurist action which might put paid to the lives of these individuals at the hands of people who do not mind coveting mindless violence. Now therefore, we have to be very careful and we have to see the combined pressure of world opinion, the pressure of the western nations whose nationals and their lives are involved.

[Badawi] Now may I tell you that the post-mortem examination has revealed that the Norwegian hostage was actually decapitated while he was still alive, does that surprise you?

[Singhvi] No it does not surprise me at all. With all my life spent in law, I had come to that conclusion circumstantially, but I was waiting for an autopsy report, because we are trained to be self-restrained in these matters.

[Badawi] Now may I put it to you that the Indian authorities, in a sense, share the burden of guilt for the death of the Norwegian hostage?

[Singhvi] Not at all. If anyone has to share the guilt or take the guilt for what has happened it is the Government of Pakistan which has pampered and given

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sanctuary to a whole lot of militant organizations, many of which have control over these people. Whose release is being asked for? The release of people of [?Hatan Du Lan Saab], which has headquarters in Pakistan.

[Badawi] Well may I put it to you that the Indian authorities do share some of the responsibility, because as we know, human rights organizations like Asia Watch, like Amnesty International point the finger very squarely at atrocities committed by the security forces in the Indian administered state of Jammu and Kashmir?

[Singhvi] Firstly, whenever their has been a single violation of human rights at the hands of anyone in India, our law requires, and that law has been observed punctually and fully. [incomplete sentence as heard]

Official 'Source' Details Norwegian Hostage's Death

BK1508074495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0610 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Aug 15 (AFP) — A Norwegian tourist abducted by Muslim separatist guerrillas in Kashmir was still alive when he was decapitated, a government source said Tuesday [15 August].

An autopsy performed at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here Monday revealed that the death of 27-year-old Hans-Christian Ostro was caused by "the severing of the head from the body," the source told AFP.

"The kidnappers used the most brutal method for ending the life of Mr. Ostro," the source said on condition of anonymity. "The (autopsy) report indicates that death was caused by the severing of the head from the body."

Ostro's body was flown to New Delhi on Monday on an Indian air force plane.

Ostro, who was kidnapped by the Muslim separatist group Al-Faran on July 8, was "extremely emaciated" at the time of his death and the body "bore marks of brutality," including broken bones, the source said.

"After death, the words 'Al-Faran' were inscribed on the body with a crude instrument," the source said.

Ostro's body and severed head were found Sunday by a woman gathering firewood in a remote village in Kashmir.

Prior to the autopsy, there had been suspicions that he may have been critically ill and died of natural causes.

A note from the kidnappers found with the body warned that the four other Western hostages held by the Muslim separatist group would suffer the same fate unless the Indian authorities released 15 Muslim militants from prison.

Al-Faran had initially insisted that the prisoners be released by Tuesday but the group has since extended the deadline to Wednesday morning.

Rao Assures 'Heavy Hand' To Deal With 'Militancy'

BK1408151295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said that the government is determined to deal with militancy with a heavy hand in order to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao also reiterated the government's commitment to restore the political and electoral process in the state.

In a message broadcast over All India Radio on the eve of Independence Day to the armed forces, the prime minister commended them for their concerted and well-coordinated efforts in restoring normalcy in the state. Mr. Narasimha Rao said unfortunately, Pakistan is continuing its anti-India activities by supporting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, northeastern states, and other parts of the country.

The prime minister, who also holds the defense portfolio, said the people are proud of the valor and sacrifice of the armed forces in discharging their duties against heavy odds.

Further on Prime Minister's Remarks

BK1408161795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says the government is determined to deal with militancy with a heavy hand so that the democratic process is restored in Jammu and Kashmir. In a broadcast to the armed forces on the eve of Independence Day, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the center is committed to the restoration of the political and electoral process in the state. He said the jawans [soldiers] and officers of the armed and paramilitary forces are doing a commendable job in restoring near normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said India has always been extending its hand of friendship to Pakistan to settle all outstanding issues amicably, but our gesture of goodwill has not been reciprocated. He said Pakistan, unfortunately, is continuing its anti-India activities by supporting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, and other parts of the country.

The prime minister assured the jawans and the officers that the government will give high priority to the

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modernization and manpower and materiel requirements of the forces so that defense preparedness does not suffer at any cost.

Pakistanis Reportedly Fire Rockets Into Kashmir

BK1508125095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, firing by the Pakistani troops from across the border in Punch Sector has been continuing since yesterday. At least 15 rockets have been fired. However, no damage was caused by these explosions.

President Sharma Speaks on Eve of Independence Day

BK1408155495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1513 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Address by President Shankar Dayal Sharma to the nation on the eve of Independence Day; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fellow Citizens, Sisters, Brothers, and Dear Children of India: On the eve of our Independence Day, the anniversary of our regaining freedom, I have immense pleasure in extending to you and to Indians around the globe my warmest greetings and felicitations. In our history, 15 August 1947 signifies the culmination of long years of struggle and sacrifice to restore our ancient land its lost freedom. The quality characteristics of that struggle were determined by crystal pure values cherished by our great national leaders. Thus, the movement had a moral and ethical force which attracted nationwide participation, unique in its magnitude, duration, and discipline. At the heart of the struggle was a powerful national urge to uphold India's honor and win freedom — 15 August, therefore, represents the triumphant power of nationwide commitment in tune with national ideals. Let us fully comprehend this aspect and draw lessons from it.

We pay our homage and tribute to the heroic martyrs and freedom fighters in the vanguard of that epic struggle. Their suffering and sacrifice awakened and inspired millions in our cities, towns, villages, and hamlets of our vast country. It aroused in all men and women, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the zeal to persevere and march to victory. I recall some lines of a poem of that time evoking the spirit and atmosphere of the struggle: Apni takat tol sipahi, balidanom ke armanom se — Measure your strength, oh fighter, by the sacrifices you aspire to make. Similarly, the popular folk song comes to my mind: Sar peh bandh kafaniyan shaheedon ke toli nikali — With shrouds around their heads sallied forth the bands of martyrs.

Mahatma Gandhi [also Bapu or Gandhiji] symbolizes to us the values, vision, sense of purpose, and willingness to sacrifice which characterized our freedom struggle. Bapu represents the participation of the common man — of our whole people, the masses — in this historic mission. This year we commemorate Bapu's 125th birth anniversary. As we pay tribute to his memory, let us maintain and develop that national resolve created under Gandhiji's leadership.

Friends, I said 15 August marks the culmination of a chapter of our struggle. It stands also for the commencement from that auspicious day of another mission; another national struggle. Growth with social justice is the goal of our national reconstruction. Rebuilding India, we strive for peace, friendship, and cooperation with our neighbors and with nations and people's around the world. We seek thus to make our rightful contribution toward a better future for all.

Forty-eight years after independence, there is much that we can be proud of; much that strengthens our faith in ourselves. India today is advancing as a nation with tremendous range and capacity for growth in industry as in agriculture and in the tertiary sector. Already we have the world's second largest pool of technically trained human resources. We have the wherewithal for a sustainable development. We have built institutions, developed systems, and created scope for accelerated and balanced growth. And yet there is no question that problems of poverty, illiteracy, and disease beset us. We also have to tackle and eliminate the interconnected evils of communalism, casteism, and corruption.

Friends, the task of nation building — of safeguarding and enlarging the gains of freedom — involves a role of primary importance for each one of us. The freedom movement had depended on the wholehearted, dedicated participation of every Indian. So does the task of making India great again. Let us appreciate that citizenship itself is an office. Citizenship confers specific rights and safeguards as well as duties and responsibilities under our Constitution. The power of the people, the ultimate and the greatest power, is with us as citizens. That power has to be exercised. Vigilance, moderation, and propriety must condition the use of the people's power, but it must be exercised in an appropriate way and on every necessary occasion.

Today, the judiciary, the press, and voluntary organizations are rendering service of the highest value as active and effective bulwarks of democracy. Their interventions in public interest are greatly respected by the people. Indeed, the effect of their salutary work is to inform and mobilize public opinion for constructive action by citizens. We recognize also the contributions

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by many individuals and institutions devotedly at work. We are proud of them.

India has a wealth of idealistic, concerned, able, and energetic women and men who have a sense of personal responsibility in tasks of national growth. They should and must be encouraged in exerting themselves and inspiring others to endorse what is right in public interest and oppose that which is not. Social service and action by citizens supported by the press and upheld by the judiciary can be a powerful force for national good. It can effectively strengthen the cause of cleansing and purifying national life and helps fight and curb many evils from gender inequalities to crime, communalism, and casteism.

Friends, accountability to the people is a cardinal principle of our polity. It is our own awareness and initiatives that can make public administration and its functionaries more intensively responsive and accountable. We have to organize ourselves to ensure that the mechanisms and instruments of governance do not swerve from the straight path of rectitude. Work must be done with a spirit of selfless service, a sense of propriety, and professional efficiency. We have to compel such performance of designated duties in service of the people. Reform and restructuring acquire meaning only when the common man is benefited, when his quality of life improves, and his burdens and worries diminish. We must aim at reducing economic and social disparities as a central objective in our endeavors for development. The inner strength of the people has to be summoned for this purpose and a constant vigil exercised. That is of the essence in our democracy.

Friends, we must reiterate national resolve over a spectrum of other key issues. We shall zealously guard our freedom, national sovereignty, and integrity. We shall fight and finish externally sponsored terrorism and its nexus with the narcotics trade and organized crime. We shall maintain unflinchingly our opposition to discriminatory agreements in the field of nuclear and missile technology. Such consensus should extend to all issues of vital national interest. The world's largest democracy can never yield to pressure.

We offer our hand of peace, friendship, and cooperation to all nations, especially our neighbors in the subcontinent and other countries in Asia with whom we have ties of kinship and culture. Indeed through cooperative endeavors we look forward to South Asia becoming a region of prosperity and progress. We, therefore, view with concern steps that can jeopardize our region's peace and stability. Our nation and the world are entering a new chapter of history which entails new imperatives of patriotic duty.

A critical national need in this respect is to generate a sense of resolve, faith in our cause, confidence in our ability, a powerful nationwide determination to attain our goals, a ready willingness to commit ourselves totally in facing varied challenges attending our task. Tomorrow, as we unfurl the national tricolor, let us dedicate ourselves to the glory of India and the good of all humankind. Let us strive to fulfill the dreams of those who gave their all for our freedom. Let us pledge to serve so that we too may be regarded as having done our duty well.

Jai Hind [Hail India]!

Bomb Blast Reported Near Independence Day Venue

BK1508042695 Hong Kong AFP in English 0401 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jammu, India, Aug 15 (AFP) — Ten Hindu pilgrims were injured Tuesday [15 August] when a bomb suspected to have been planted by Muslim separatists to disrupt India's Independence Day exploded at a hotel here, police said.

The blast occurred at 7:15 a.m. (0145 GMT) in this Kashmir winter capital near a stadium where a senior Indian official was to give an Independence Day speech, police said.

Police said the injured were Hindu pilgrims from the northern state of Haryana who had come to Kashmir to take part in an annual pilgrimage to a shrine in the Himalayas.

The pilgrimage ended last week, and the injured had planned to return home later Tuesday, police said.

The security forces sounded an alert following the blast amid fears that Muslim separatists may plan other attacks to disrupt the Independence Day celebrations.

Police said the roof of the small hotel collapsed and several of the victims had been crushed by debris. The injured were admitted to a government hospital.

Twenty people were killed here last month in two bomb blasts staged by a hardline Muslim separatist group which had vowed to disrupt the annual Hindu pilgrimage.

Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups have also carried out numerous attacks during Independence Day celebrations in the past few years.

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Reportage on Security Risk of Religious Ceremony

Government Not To Allow Mosque Razing

BK1108161795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says that the Center and the Uttar Pradesh Government are coordinating efforts to prevent recurring of an Ayodhya-like situation [the razing of the mosque by Hindus in Ayodhya in 1992] in Mathura. Talking to newsmen in Mathura after reviewing the security arrangements, he said that a close watch has been kept on the developments.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Ms. Mayawati, has said that the performance of Vishnu Maha Yagya [great religious sacrifice] on Janmasthmi [birthday of Lord Krishna] day will not be allowed. According to PTI, the chief minister's statement came after a nine-member delegation of the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] and allied organizations called on her this afternoon.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has suggested that the issue should be resolved through a dialogue between the government and VHP. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Krishan Lal Sharma, also said that his party is ready to extend cooperation for this.

The Janata Dal and left parties have also asked the prime minister to take stern preventive measures to avoid any untoward incident at Mathura. In Lucknow, the All India Babri Masjid [mosque] Action Committee has appealed to the center to deploy Army in and around the 'Idgah [prayer ground] in Mathura as a precautionary measure.

The VHP says its decision to hold the Maha Yagya adjacent to Janmasthali [birthplace of Lord Krishna] in Mathura will not be changed.

Official Details Security Measures

BK1308094995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The center, in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh Government, has set up two core groups to monitor the situation in Mathura in view of the proposed Vishnu Maha Yagya [great religious sacrifice] near the Krishna Janmabhoomi [birthplace of Lord Krishna] on Janmasthmi Day [birthday of Lord Krishna]. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, told our correspondent in New Delhi today that one group comprises senior union officials like home secretary; defense secretary; director, intelligence; and director general of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and the other of senior state officials. The core group will report about the situation in Mathura to Mr. Pilot twice a day.

Speaking to our correspondent Alok Deshwal a short while ago, he said 20 companies of paramilitary forces have already reached Mathura. The center, he said, will provide all assistance to the state government to maintain law and order. Mr. Pilot said close circuit TV monitors will be installed in the 1 km radius of the Krishna Janmabhoomi to display the correct picture of the happenings there. He said the security ring will be in three parts. While the central forces will be deputed in the innermost circle of the temple, the middle and the outer circle of the ring will be manned by the state police and the PAC [Provincial Armed Constabulary]. He said the center is fully vigilant of the situation.

Further on 'Very Tense' Situation

BK1308164795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The center, in consultation with the Uttar Pradesh Government, has set up two core groups to monitor the situation in Mathura. This is in view of the proposed Vishnu Maha Yagya [great religious sacrifice] near the Krishna Janmabhoomi [birthplace of Lord Krishna] on Janmasthmi Day [birthday of Lord Krishna]. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said this in New Delhi today. In an interview to our correspondent, the minister said 20 companies of paramilitary forces have already reached Mathura and the center will provide all assistance to the state government in the maintenance of law and order. He appealed to the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP — World Hindu Council] and other organizations not to disturb peace in Mathura. Mr. Pilot said the situation in Mathura has become very tense due to provocative speeches by the leaders of these organizations. The minister reiterated that the center will not allow anything untoward to happen.

Meanwhile, the border of Mathura District has been sealed as a precautionary measure in view of the proposed Vishnu Maha Yagya. The district magistrate, Mr. G.M. Chamber, told newsmen in Mathura that a thorough check of all the visitors including devotees and saints would be made at the borders of this district till the Janmasthmi Day. Elaborate security arrangements have been made to maintain law and order. The magistrate also said that a strict vigil is being kept for security of the mosque close to the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi.

The former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has expressed the hope that the center will not allow the

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situation in Mathura to drift to grave proportions. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said attempts are being made to vitiate the atmosphere of religious harmony and endanger the existing communal peace in Uttar Pradesh. Criticizing the proposed VHP programs at Mathura, Mr. Chandra Shekhar called upon the people to raise their voice against any attempt to create a communal divide.

The All India Babri Masjid [mosque] Rebuilding Committee in a letter to the prime minister has appealed for a ban on the proposed Vishnu Maha Yagya and Virat Hindu Sammelan [Mammoth Hindu Conference] in Mathura.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in a statement has urged the prime minister to urgently convene a full meeting of the National Integration Council to discuss the Mathura controversy.

Minister Gives Assurances on Security

BK1408135995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said the government has already taken steps to prevent any untoward incidents at the Krishna Janmabhumi-Idgah Mosque complex in Mathura. Talking to a delegation of Muslim intellectuals belonging to the All India Milli Council and Jamaat-i-Islami Hindu in New Delhi today, he said if the situation demands any further action for maintaining the security of the shrines, it will also be taken. The delegation called on Mr. Chavan to apprise him of the Muslim community's apprehensions in regard to the situation developing in Mathura.

The Samajwadi Party president and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has urged the prime minister to immediately convene a meeting of the National Integration Council to discuss the Mathura issue. Mr. Yadav, in a letter to Mr. Narasimha Rao, said the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad — World Hindu Council], the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh], and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] are trying to create an Ayodhya-like situation in Mathura by raising a controversy over a Vishnu Mahayagna [Hindu religious ceremony] during the Janmashthami [birthday of Lord Krishna] celebrations.

The social welfare minister, Mr. Sita Ram Kesri, has charged the Sang Parivar [reference to RSS] with raking up the Mathura issue only with an eye on the next Lok Sabha polls. Speaking at a seminar in Bangalore today, Mr. Kesri said the Parivar is power-hungry and power-oriented body with no political or economic philosophy to speak of.

The BJP has advised the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to come to a mutually acceptable solution to the Mathura issue. The party spokesperson, Ms. Shushma Swaraj, told newsmen in New Delhi today that communal harmony in Mathura should not be disturbed.

Organization Shifts Site of Ceremony

BK1508011795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] has decided to shift the venue of its proposed Vishnu Maha Yagna [Hindu religious ceremony] from a site close to the Krishna Janmaboomi-Idgah complex to Lakshminarain Temple in Mathura. The plan was worked out at a meeting between the VHP leaders and the chief minister, Ms. Mayawati, in Delhi last night. Ms. Mayawati held two rounds of discussions with the VHP leaders. Senior state police officials were also present during the discussion.

Detained LTTE 'Militants' Escape From Camp

BK1508093095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Tamil Nadu, 43 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants, including four women, escaped late last night from the Vellore Special Camp. Police sources in Madras said seven escapees were nabbed in the city. Three militants, when cornered by the police, consumed cyanide and died. A statewide red alert has been sounded and a massive manhunt launched to nab the culprits. Neighboring cities and the coastal security have also been put on alert.

Meanwhile, the state chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, held a high-level meeting with senior police and civil officials to review the law and order situation following the incident. A judicial inquiry has been ordered.

Iran

Commentary Views U.S. Policy on Middle East, Russia

NC1408182195 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Aug 95 p 12

[Part one of a two-part commentary by Ruzbeh Bu ol-Hari: "The U.S. Policy of a Blockading Iran and Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government stepped up pressure on Moscow last week to revoke the agreement between Russia and Iran on the construction of a nuclear power plant at Bushehr. Washington claims

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the agreement will assist Iran in its efforts to produce nuclear weapons, despite Tehran's repeated denials and the International Atomic Energy Agency's confirmation of Iran's peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Nevertheless, it appears Washington's propaganda about Iran's manufacture of nuclear weapons with Russia's assistance has a specified purpose. It is to prevent strategic cooperation between Moscow and Tehran; this can be described as "a dual blockade of Russia and Iran."

This U.S. policy follows developments of the past two years, when Moscow and Tehran have devoted their attention to mutual cooperation on Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Caspian Sea, and the Persian Gulf. (Footnote: In the 10 August 1994 issue of ABRAR, Sergey Tretyakov, the Russian ambassador to Iran, gave an interview in which he said that Iran and Russia have formulated a plan for preventing military operations in the Persian Gulf.)

The broadening of Russian-Iranian relations took place in conjunction with the supplanting of proletarian internationalism [preceding word in English] and Marxism-Leninism by economic cooperation as Moscow's foreign policy. The Russians hoped this would enable Russia to restore its role in the Middle East to Cold War levels. Thus, we witnessed intensified Russian activity in the Middle East. (Footnote: Russian officials' shuttles included a visit by Viktor Pasovalyuk, Yeltsin's emissary to the Arab Middle Eastern countries.)

Two factors were responsible for attracting Moscow's attention to the Middle East:

1. Economic capability: Eyeing the oil wealth of the Middle East countries, Russia is hopeful that this region will provide a market for its industrial and military products. (Footnote: Russian magnates accompanied Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Kuwait.)

2. Strategic position: Due to its proximity to Central Asia and the Caucasus, the Middle East is of special importance to Russia. Its oil resources makes this region doubly important for Russia, since it will encounter a reduction of its fossil fuel in the future. In addition, Russia's desire for a presence in the Middle East will also bring it closer to Iran and Iraq.

One must not forget that despite the adverse repercussions, especially in the economic sphere, following the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, Russia is still considered one of the great powers of the world. This is something that the Russians have insisted upon vehemently as they seek to revive their international role. In this regard, one may even mention the strengthening of Moscow's relations with Cuba and its renewal of the Russian radar station there. Russia also envisions cooperation with two major world powers, the EU and the PRC.

Washington is displeased with Russia's policy, which will expedite the emergence of a multipolar world in the 21st century and hinder the U.S. goal of a U.S.-led unipolar world. Meanwhile, on the regional level, Russia's relations with Iran and Iraq are of special interest to U.S. politicians. Iran and Iraq are countries against which the United States is implementing its policy of dual containment. According to analyses by U.S. politicians, the broadening of relations between these two countries and Russia (as well as with the EU, PRC, and Japan) is a hindrance to Washington's regional policy of gaining control of the Middle East oil resources.

The United States wants Tehran and Baghdad to adopt a positive and convergent policy so that it can attain its strategic international goal by pushing ahead with the Middle East peace talks. This would defeat its economic and political rivals.

Now that the circumstances in the region indicate "a renewed reevaluation" of Baghdad's foreign policies, the United States is focusing its attention on Iran more than ever. On the other hand, Baghdad's rapprochment comes when U.S. diplomatic moves in the Kurd-inhabited region of Iraq are on the increase. By using the Kurdish card and continuing its embargo of Baghdad, Washington has created conditions for turning Iraq's foreign policy toward compromise with the United States. However, it is possible that the United States is not "currently" seeking to topple the Iraqi regime because it sees the policy of its leadership as converging with its own. (Footnote: One of the reasons for this is the dissolution of the Iraqi National Congress.)

'Source' Comments on U.S. Sanctions, Oil Sales

LD1408202495 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 14 (IRNA) — Iran has found markets for all but 200,000 barrels of its oil since the U.S. imposition of the trade embargo against the Islamic Republic, an informed source at the oil ministry announced here Monday [14 August].

Talking to IRNA the source said that since replacing old customers with new ones requires time, Iran would find its real status in the market by a maximum of next two months.

In 1994 U.S. companies purchased over dlrs. four billion worth of oil from Iran mainly for sale outside the United States and President Bill Clinton's ban on trade with

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Iran has come as a bolt from the blue for them with eager customers from Europe and Japan vying to have a share of the Iranian market.

The oil ministry source ruled out any decrease in output and said Iran at present is storing the amount of oil for which customers have not yet been found.

He dismissed as "absured" claims that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were filling the gap by providing oil to U.S. companies which have lost the Iranian market. The two countries, he added, have not exceeded their OPEC quotas and there was a likelihood that non-OPEC members could fill the gap in view of the surplus on the oil market.

On Iran's recent plans to store 15 million barrels of oil at South African depots, the expert said, all world countries store oil when there is a change of customers or a drop in demand in order to avoid sales at cheaper prices.

He said Iran had always stored part of its oil either in Europe or Latin America and that the plan to store in South Africa was, therefore, not a new issue arising out of the U.S. embargo.

Iran has always enjoyed strategic oil storage facilities as part of its policy to diversify sources.

The source brushed aside the report that Iran had hired 28 oil tankers to use them as mobile storage centers and said Iran's tanker fleet was larger than any other OPEC member's.

The Iranian expert dismissed as "false" the claim of a drop in Japanese and South Korean import of oil from Iran and said there was no change in the two countries policy regarding oil purchase from Iran.

Japan purchases 400,000 to 500,000 barrels of oil per day from Iran at present, he added.

The official also told IRNA that Iran intends to award buy-back contracts for implementation of 10 oil and natural gas projects.

He added that the projects were mainly small, except one or two of them, and included modernizing refineries and preventing excessive burning of gas.

The oil expert concluded that 100 Asian and European companies had announced their readiness to contribute to the said projects.

U.S. Navy's Violation of Sea, Airspace Protested

LD1508092095 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations Hq. (New York), Aug. 15, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran has strongly protested to the illegal activities of the American navy in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. Dr. Kamal Kharrazi on Monday [14 August] submitted to the secretary general copies of two separate letters of protest from the Iranian Foreign Ministry, asking that they be circulated as Security Council documents.

The Foreign Ministry had sent the letters to the Iranian interest section at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, to be delivered to the U.S. State Department, demanding that these type of unlawful activities immediately cease.

The letters dated January 11 and March 27 cite violation of Iran's territorial waters and airspace by the United States naval fleet and helicopters between August 21 and December 2.

Two of the incidents pertain to warnings by U.S. warships to helicopters of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) which were flying from Bushehr and Kharg to an offshore oil rig in Forouzan field in Iran's territorial waters on November 31 and December 2.

The other two incidents include the American navy's bothering of Iranian oil tankers in Iran's territorial waters by demanding their identity, the nature of their consignment and their destinations.

Khamene'i Grants Pardons on Religious Anniversary

NC1508082495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the auspicious birthday of the great Prophet Muhammad—peace be upon him and his scion—and Imam Ja'far Sadiq—peace be upon him—His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, agreed to grant amnesty and curtail the prison terms of 484 persons convicted by civil, revolutionary, and military courts nationwide.

The amnesty and reduction of sentences of these convicts was due to the request of Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the Judiciary.

The letter by the head of Judiciary and the concurrence by the great leader are as follows:

For the auspicious attention of His Eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Vali- ye Amr-e Muslimin [Guardian of the Muslims' cause], may God extend His shadow. [preceding sentence in Arabic]

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With salutations and best wishes on the birthday of the great Prophet Muhammad—peace be upon him and his scion—I give my greetings to His Eminence. On the fortunate occasion of these auspicious days, I submit a list of 484 persons sentenced by civil, revolutionary, and military courts nationwide. With it, I implement Clause 11, Article 110 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The stages of legal and expert assessment have been completed by the Judiciary's Amnesty and Pardon Committee. These persons are qualified for obtaining amnesty and having their sentences reduced.

I hope Your Excellency will grant them Islamic kindness and favor. Your instructions will be duly implemented. [preceding sentence in Arabic]

[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary

In response, the great leader wrote the following:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

With reciprocal greetings on the birthday of the last of the Prophets, peace be upon him and his scion, and Imam Sadiq— peace be upon him—I concur with the proposal by Your Excellency. The named persons are eligible for amnesty and a reduction of their punishments. Salutations and God's blessings be upon you. [Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 23 Mordad 1374 [14 August 1995]

Khamene'i Approves Release of 100 Iraqi POWs

LD1508104795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A total of 100 Iraqi POWs are to be released to mark the auspicious birth anniversaries of the savior of mankind, the noble prophet of Islam, His Holiness Muhammad ibn-Abdallah, may peace be upon him and his scion, and of Imam Ja'far Sadiq, peace be upon him, and the occasion of Unity Week, on the recommendation of Brigadier-General Abdollah Najafi, head of the commission for pow affairs, and on the approval of the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief ['Ali Khamene'i].

SAIRI Chief Comments on 'Suspicious' Defection

LD1508113695 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], said SAIRI would not cooperate with Saddam Husayn's son-in-law who fled recently to Jordan and described his defection as "suspicious".

Ayatollah Mohammad Baqr Hakim told a press conference here last night that the latest reports from inside Iraq indicate that some units of the republican guards have been stationed in sensitive points in Baghdad including the radio and television station, and Ba'ath party offices and on the Baghdad-Ramadi road.

He added that following flight of some of Saddam's relatives, many high-ranking military officers have been arrested.

Asked whether the defection is a scenario which could serve as a breakthrough to the benefit of Saddam in Iraq's current crisis, Ayatollah Hakim did not exclude such a probability, although he had doubts about it given that many of the relatives of Husayn Kamal Hassan have been reportedly arrested or executed.

He, however, predicted collapse of the Iraqi regime due to the "palace power struggle", growth of popular resentment against the Iraqi regime notably in southern and western Iraq as well as Saddam's failure to ease the U.N. sanctions.

Ayatollah Hakim underlined that any change in Iraq should be done by the people and army of iraq, and not any attempt by foreign forces, would, as he put it, would be noxious to the cause of the Iraqi people.

Husayn Kamal together with his younger brother Saddam Kamal and their wives (both daughters of Saddam Husayn) defected to Jordan last week along with several other officers.

Husayn Kamal who was in charge of Iraq's military programme served as industry ministry while his younger brother, Saddam Kamal, was head of the republican guards.

Iraq's Islamic opposition groups have reservations of cooperating with Husayn Kamal whom they regard as an accomplice of Saddam in his crimes against the people.

Velayati Departs on Visit to Southern Africa

LD1408175295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Heading a diplomatic delegation, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for southern Africa this afternoon to hold talks with officials of three African countries. During the trip Velayati will visit South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.

In an interview before leaving Tehran Velayati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran stresses the necessity to maintain stability and security in Africa and will make every effort to resolve the conflicts between neighboring countries in Africa and their domestic problems.

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He said: The southern African countries are on the threshold of a great economic reconstruction programme. Iran's experience could be very beneficial and constructive for those countries.

South African Stance on U.S. Trade Ban Viewed

LD1408135495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary: "South Africa Ignores U.S. Trade Ban Against Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States receives another setback in its embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran: South Africa has not heeded to America's latest call on cutting off trade ties with Iran. On August 12, the secretary general of South Africa's government fuel institute, Mr. Kobus van Zyl, commenting in this regard said that, despite U.S. efforts to make other countries toe its line, South Africa intends to sign an agreement with Iran allowing it to store 15million Iranian oil barrels.

Political experts believe that South Africa's latest agreement with Iran's National Oil Company has brought about a series of frictions between Washington and Pretoria. It is to be noted that, since June 6,1995, the United States imposed trade sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran; sanctions which have up-to-date only been favored by the Zionist regime.

Political-economic analysts believe that the imposition of trade embargoes against Iran was nothing but a futile and fruitless measure, for, on the present-day markets' close, competition over gaining the upper hand in emerging markets across the globe is of an overriding importance. America's setback in convincing the South African Government in following the U.S. lead has to be evaluated in this same line. Storing Iran's oil in South Africa, on the one hand, leads to a boost in Iran-South African ties and, on the other, facilitates Iran's access to southern African and Latin American oil markets.

It goes without saying that, since the U.S. trade sanctions came into force against Islamic Iran, the bulk of U.S. companies have been banned from having transactions with Iran, suffering heavy financial losses. The U.S. company of Conoco, in the Siri island, is one example. The U.S. Government had guaranteed the U.S. companies to pave the ground for the presence of American corporations in other countries in case they are banned from maintaining their activities with Iran; something which has failed to be realised up-to-date.

At any rate, the passage of time has proved that the United States is not capable of comprehending Islamic Iran in an appropriate manner, and this factor has led U.S. officials astray, prompting them to make hasty and illogical judgements over Iran. The U.S. Government intended to push the Islamic Republic of Iran toward isolation, but it is actually the U.S. itself which is doomed to loneliness in its sanctions against Iran.

Communique Issued After Ugandan Official's Visit

LD1108161295 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 11, IRNA — At the end of the five-day official visit to Iran of Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke, a joint communique was released here Friday [11 Friday] in which unfair relations between the developed industrial states and the developing nations was criticized and closer cooperation among Third World countries was urged.

The two sides severely condemned foreign interference in the internal affairs of countries including African states under the pretext of support for democratization and introduction of multi-party systems in those countries.

Both Uganda and Iran stressed the need for stability and security in Africa, adding that the differences between the neighboring countries should be resolved through peaceful means and constructive dialogue. The two sides hoped that the existing differences between Sudan and Uganda would be settled through constructive bilateral talks.

Iran announced its readiness to mediate between the two countries if the Government of Uganda wished so.

After evaluating situation in the Persian Gulf, the two sides underlined the need for a lasting peace and permanent security in the Persian Gulf which, they stressed, could only be attained through the countries in the region.

Both Iran and Uganda expressed their optimism and satisfaction over the peace and political stability prevailing in Angola and Mozambique.

The two sides, members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), stressed the need for more cooperation among the Islamic nations in the attainment of the organization's objectives and for the settlement of problems facing the Islamic world.

Uganda praised the Iranian nation for their alertness in averting foreign conspiracies, the communique said, terming the sanction imposed on Iran as unjust.

The two sides also expressed their support for territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and severely condemned the Serbs atrocities directed towards the

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Bosnian Muslims which the two sides considered as ethnic cleansing.

Both Uganda and Iran expressed concern over the differences shown by the international bodies towards crimes being committed by the Serbs and announced their full support for the OIC Contact Group which met in Geneva recently to find a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

On the Palestinian issue both Iran and Uganda stressed the need for reinstating the occupied Palestinian lands and the Palestinian legitimate rights. The two sides believed that the Middle East crisis could only be settled and its problems uprooted through a proper panacea.

The two sides also underlined the need for continued efforts by the Non-Aligned Movement at international arena and stressed the need for further strengthening of the movement.

Economy Official Resigns; Economic Situation Viewed

Rafsanjani Appoints New Budget Official

LD1208111095 Tehran IRNA in English
1003 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 12 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Saturday [12 August] appointed Hamid Mirzadeh as new head of the plan and budget organization to replace Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani who resigned from his post on August 7.

In his decree, the president said that he expected Mirzadeh to take appropriate measures to materialize the goals of the Second Five Year Economic Development Plan as well as the policies approved by the Islamic system, using the committed and efficient workforce and mobilizing the capabilities of the country.

Before his new appointment, Mirzadeh was acting as the vice president for executive affairs.

In a separate decree, president Rafsanjani appointed Rowghani-Zanjani as his advisor for plan and budget affairs.

The president also lauded Rowghani-Zanjani for his services during his post as vice president and head of the plan and budget organization.

Rafsanjani said that no doubt the role played by Rowghani-Zanjani in the successful implementation of the First Five Year Development Plan would never be forgotten.

Resignation Said End of Free Market 'Experiment'

NC1208170395 Paris AFP in English
1349 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 12 (AFP) — Iran announced the resignation of its leading economic liberal, Vice President Mas'ud Rowghani—Zanjani, on Saturday [12 August], marking the end of the country's battered experiment with the free market.

The departure of Rowghani-Zanjani, one of several vice presidents and director of the Planning and Budget Agency, was a victory for Iranian conservatives and radicals who for weeks had called for his departure.

Rowghani-Zanjani, one of the architects of the Islamic regime's free market experiment begun in 1990, had become the target of critics who accused him of being responsible for the country's current economic crisis.

Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani accepted the resignation and praised Rowghani-Zanjani for his work in the government since 1989, Radio Tehran reported.

He appointed Hamid Mirzadeh, president of executive affairs and in charge of reconstruction in regions of Iran devastated by the 1980-88 war with Iraq, as his successor.

Over the last few months the Tehran government has abandoned the policies of Rowghani-Zanjani and other liberals, returning to a state-led economy in an attempt to combat a plunging currency and galloping inflation.

Leaders have also sought to tame the 35 billion dollar medium-and short-term debt which the country has accrued since first falling into a budget crisis two years ago.

Last May, under pressure from conservatives and business people, the government decided to end the free trade in currencies by fixing exchange rates and controlling the money flow.

In April, Tehran set fixed prices for some locally produced goods and stepped up its fight against contraband.

The government set up an economic police force to inspect shops and crack down on "illegal stock" and decided that a force of 320 teams of "basiji", volunteer militias, should also supervise markets.

Ration coupons for basic goods and other products have also returned. For the last few days, hundreds of thousands of Tehranis have lined up in front of banks to receive the coupons for food items such as oil and rice.

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Many in the government have justified the return of the state economy by pointing to the United States embargo imposed on Iran last June.

But the steps taken to strengthen the national currency and rein in inflation have not ended either the black market or illegal contraband.

Saturday saw a race for the U.S. dollar on the black market in Tehran as its rate rose sharply to 4,000 to 4,100 rials, up from 3,600 rials on Monday. In state-run banks the dollar trades at 3,000 rials.

"The reappearance of the free market proves that there exists a strong demand for hard currencies which the Central Bank cannot satisfy," the Saturday edition of the IRAN NEWS said.

The paper called on the government to "act immediately to stop this unhealthy tendency" towards a controlled economy.

"Sinister hands seen to revive the black market and higher prices," said the paper AL-AKHBAR, warning of a "new economic crisis."

"The price of basic products and foodstuffs have not stopped rising only two months after the government decision to freeze exchange rates," it said.

Coincides With Dollar's 'Sudden Increase'

NC1408112795 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0700 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The rate of the dollar jumped again in Tehran against the rial yesterday, rising from 360 tumans to 410 tumans.

Since the beginning of Khordad [22 May-21 June] the clerical regime has tried to hold back the dollar exchange rate and keep it artificially at 300 tumans by banning foreign exchange transactions and arresting money changers. However, these efforts have been unsuccessful and foreign exchange rates again continue to rise in Tehran.

The sudden increase in the value of the dollar—which coincided with the resignation of the head of the regime's Plan and Budget organization—is being viewed in financial circle's as an indication of the clerical regime's economic problems. Intense conflict within the clerical regime over the control of foreign exchange rates has seemed to erupt once again.

The head of the Plan and Budget organization, Rowghani-Zanjani, who has resigned, was opposed to the control of foreign exchange that has ground the wheels of the regime's economy to a halt. In its 13 August edition, KEYHAN newspaper admitted these differences and wrote: The change in the head of the Plan and Budget organization is linked to the implementation of the new economic policy.

President Appoints New Executive Affairs Official

LD1408085195 Tehran IRNA in English 0829 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 14, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday [14 August] appointed Mohammad Hashemi as vice-president for executive affairs.

Before his new appointment, Mohammad Hashemi was acting as deputy foreign minister and earlier managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

He replaces Hamid Mirzadeh who was appointed vice-president and head of the Plan and Budget Organization by the president on August 12.

Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani who served as head of the Plan and Budget Organization for 14 years resigned from his post on August 7. He was later appointed president's advisor for plan and budget affairs.

In his decree, President Rafsanjani praised Hashemi for his past services in various executive fields.

IRGC Commander on Rapid Deployment Force Plans

NC1208154595 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 6 Aug 95 p 2

[Provincial report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i has said: The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] is in the process of being transformed into a rapid deployment force. The maneuvers of all the 'Ashura battalions can be considered the first step in the implementation of this major defense plan.

The commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who was addressing the session of the administrative council in Ardabil Province yesterday, described the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and neighboring countries as cordial and friendly. He stressed the need for forging economic and cultural relations with countries of the Caucasus region, particularly with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Major General Mohsen Reza'i deemed the U.S. defeat in its effort to persuade European countries to join in the economic embargo against Iran as a humiliation on an international scale for the United States.

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Nepal

Prime Minister Said Unharmed in Helicopter Incident

BK1408130695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Aug 14 (AFP) — Bad weather forced down a Nepalese army helicopter carrying Prime Minister Man Mohan Akhikari Monday [14 August], a highly placed official source said. The prime minister was uninjured.

The helicopter had been "missing for some three hours" before it was found, the source said.

Akhikari was on an inspection visit to Tikapur, 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of Kathmandu and was returning to the Nepalese capital.

"Due to bad weather conditions, the army helicopter had to force land on the bank of Rapti river in Bardiya" near Tikapur, the source said.

Another helicopter took Akhikari back to Kathmandu.

Prime Minister in Kathmandu for Check-Up

BK1508063895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Aug 15 (AFP) — Prime Minister Man Mohan Akhikari, who was injured in a helicopter accident on Monday [14 August] was flown to Kathmandu Tuesday and taken to a university hospital, a Home Ministry official said.

Akhikari's right shoulder was fractured in the accident, the official said, adding that he has been advised to take about a week's rest and undergo medical checkup.

Akhikari escaped serious injuries when the French-made Puma-18 helicopter of the Royal Nepal Army, in which he was travelling to flooded areas in south-western Nepal, crash-landed on the banks of a river, the state-run radio said.

The helicopter's pilot, Major K.B. Shahi and Navigation Engineer Bishwa Basnet were seriously injured, the home ministry official said.

The government on Tuesday set up a nine-member, court of inquiry with Brigadier General Shiva Ram Khatri as chairman and senior government Attorney Prem Bahadur Bista as advisor, to investigate the crash, the radio said.

Prime Minister Praises Relations With China

LD0808153295 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Man Mohan Akhikari has stressed the CPM (UML) [Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninists] government is committed to forging ahead its foreign policy by incorporating the economic aspect with priority. Prime Minister Mr. Akhikari was addressing a function organized in Kathmandu today by the [word indistinct] Society to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Nepal and China.

Prime Minister Mr. Akhikari said ever since the restoration of democracy in Nepal there has been a record exchange of high-level visits both from the government and nongovernment sectors, and added that he was very encouraged to see China progressing in all aspects of development. Nepal will pay special attention to the promotion of Nepal-China joint investment in power industry and trade sectors, Mr. Akhikari said. He also stressed the need to strengthen not only the government-level relations but also the people-to-people relations between Nepal and China.

Agreement To Reconstruct Boundary Markers Reported

BK0508114695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Nepal have agreed on a four-year time bound action plan to reconstruct the missing boundary pillars between the two countries and repair the damaged ones. The three-day meeting of the Joint Boundary Committee ended in Kathmandu yesterday.

Pakistan

Bhutto Delivers Independence Day Ceremony Speech

BK1408093795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0315 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's marking independence day at a ceremony in front of the parliament building in Islamabad — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] My dear countrymen, peace be upon you. Today we are proudly celebrating the 48th independence day of Pakistan. Today we remember the heroes of our independence, the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the motherland, the martyrs who offered their lives for the country's security during the three

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wars, the martyrs who dedicated their lives for democracy and law. We are looking forward to a new century with unity, faith in God, and discipline. The Pakistan has undergone times of trial in its history. Thank God, Pakistan has overcome those days of trial today and entered a new phase of its life. Fair elections were held under the interim government of Moin Qureshi nearly two years ago. As a result of these elections, a foundation for an elected and democratic system of government was laid.

Every Pakistani is proud that all institutions of the state are functioning according to the Constitution. Those difficult days, those days of political turmoil when three governments — that is, the Junejo government in 1988, the Benazir government in 1990, and Nawaz Government in 1993 — were expelled, have become a part of the past. Those difficult days, when the biggest province of the federation was engaged in confrontation with the federal government, have become a part of the past. Who can forget that only two years ago the officials of the provinces and federal government were battling against each other, thus creating a danger of a civil war in our beloved country? Thank God, those days are now things of the past. Instability has been replaced by stability. Taking advantage of this political stability, the elected and representative people's government has committed to overcome all political challenges.

Colleagues, some Arab extremists came to our country following the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. These Arab extremists are using our territory for acts of violence against our Arab brothers. Pakistan is a strong fortress against terrorism. Pakistan can never allow the use of its territory for terrorism against any country, especially our brotherly Islamic countries. The people's government took steps against these elements. Through these steps, we expressed our resolve for total unity [in our country]. Through these steps, we expressed our resolve against terrorism at the global level. Most of the extremists have left our country. As a result, Pakistan's prestige at the international level has been boosted. We are against terrorism and it is imperative for all Islamic countries to help each other in this regard.

Dear brothers and sisters, the popular government declared a jihad against drug traffickers. These merchants of death are amassing huge wealth by this offensive business. Thousands of Pakistani youth have become addicted to heroin. It affected Pakistan's position at the international level. Our religion forbids addiction. However, the drug traffickers are trying to turn our country into an international hub for drug trafficking. The people's government said that we will not allow it. We will protect the youth and the prestige of the country. We arrested major drug smugglers and destroyed narcotics laboratories. These smugglers were trying to establish their control on Pakistan by influencing the police, judges, and politicians. They thought that they were above the law. We taught them the lesson that they are not above the law.

My countrymen, your sister also ordered the immediate arrest of the member of the National Assembly who was suspected of being involved in drug trafficking. Benazir is the sister of 125 million Pakistanis living in the four provinces, Azad Kashmir, and in the northern and tribal areas. I promise you that the people's government and your sister will always keep in view the national interests and the interests of toiling people and youths. There is no value for the government and the power. To us, the most valuable thing is your respect for us.

My countrymen, another menace, caused by language-based politics, was tearing down our society; it is very unfortunate that language- based politics still persists even after 50 years of independence. All those who were born here during the past 50 years are all Pakistanis. Pakistan's soil has been very kind to us all. This soil is our abode. We work, live, and die here. No patriotic individual can ever fulfill all his responsibilities to the motherland. Our bodies become part of the soil of our motherland when we die.

It is a tragedy to us that a group picked up arms after the incident at Sohrab Goth in 1986. A foreign hand manipulated linguistic feelings for its own designs. We cannot call any such group a political party which possesses rocket launchers, grenade launchers, missiles and mines.

In an effort to end the politics of terrorism, the people's government announced that it would free politics from crimes and differentiate between negotiations and terrorism. With the cooperation of the patriotic people of Karachi, the people's government has been successful in arresting some notorious terrorists. They include: Muhajir Qaumi Movement Chairman Azim Ahmad Tariq; the murderer of Salahuddin, editor of Takbir magazine; those involved in the murder incident at the Central Board of Revenue Building; the terrorists involved in the Boating Basin incident; and the criminals who attacked the Chenab Express train.

A 121-billion rupee package has also been announced for Karachi. The Faisal highway overpass, (Maikulachi) Road, the northern bypass, Cliffton Bridge, and the extension of Kala Bridge are only a few components of this package. The mothers of Karachi are my mothers. The children of Karachi are my children. On the occasion of independence day, we appeal to our mothers and sisters to pray for the restoration of peace in the affected areas. We pray for our valiant sons as well, who

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are in the army, police, ranger force, and in civil services that have embraced martyrdom to protect the people of Karachi. We also pray for the innocent civilians. We pray for those innocent people, small children, brothers and sisters, who were taken away from their families, and from us as well, by the terrorists.

I pray to God .... [pauses] Terrorists are leading a strange life. They mostly remain underground. They also live away from their families for many years. I pray to God to show them the right path so that they can abandon the path of violence and become responsible members of society. The government's doors are open for negotiations with all groups and parties; we are political people and believe in political settlement. A political settlement is made on the basis of the principle of give and take. This is also based on understanding rather than dictate. The popular government is striving for a political settlement, and I believe that with the passage of time a political settlement will be found. Time is a prerequisite to bring mildness in conversation and temperament, as well as to bring flexibility in stances.

Dear countrymen, it was a painful thing to see people roaming with weapons when the people's government was formed. They were carrying Kalashnikov rifles. Some people had an armed contingent itself. No civilized nation can grant permission for this kind of a display of weapons. The people's government has made a proclamation to rid all the major cities of the country from weapons. Those who need protection on the roads should get it from the police. We are against a Kalashnikov culture. We have imposed a ban on the display of weapons to free Pakistan from illegal weapons. This ban will be in force while the present government is in power.

Another problem facing the country is load shedding [preceding two words in English]. We have decreased load shedding to half its size within a record time of two years. In the next few years, we will totally eliminate load shedding and power shutdown [preceding two words in English]. It was our national responsibility to end load shedding so as to eliminate poverty, unemployment, and backwardness from the country. Factories and tube wells [preceding two words in English] are operated by electricity. Electricity has an impact on our national productivity and standard of life. In the past, only 260 villages were electrified per annum. There are 80,000 registered villages in Pakistan. Our brothers and sisters had no light other than sunlight in these 80,000 villages. God willing, every registered village of Pakistan will be electrified within 10 years.

It is our firm determination to transform Pakistan into a modern nation and to save our people from ignorance. As in the case of cities, where we provided telephone connections to all applicants, we have launched a telecommunication project for the rural areas as well. Thus, telephone lines will be available in all of our major towns and villages within five years, God willing. [applause]

We believe in collective work and not in individual work. While individual work can benefit only a few persons, collective work can benefit the entire society. It was a matter of great sorrow for the people's government that one out of five children suffering from polio in the world was Pakistani. This was a matter of shame for a great Islamic country. I would like to thank you that the nation has participated wholeheartedly in the anti-polio campaign of the people's government. We have achieved almost 90 percent success during the first two years. God willing, polio will be completely rooted out from Pakistan within the next three years. [applause]

Another challenge that faces us today is the increasing population. At the time of independence, each family used to possess two acres of land to feed its members. Now, each family possesses only a half acre of land to support its members. We should make concerted efforts for the health of our nation, so as to control the burgeoning population, as has been done in Bangladesh, Indonesia, and other Islamic countries. We go to the hospital for treatment when we are sick. We take medicines to treat the diseases — a heart ailment or cancer — with which we are afflicted. Similarly, we should also pay attention to the health of our family, our nation. Our success in the field of family planning will play a decisive role in the efforts we are making to eliminate problems of poverty and starvation. By achieving success in the field of family planning, we will be able to provide an honorable job and an honorable source of income to our next generations.

The people's government is extremely concerned about the problem of unemployment in the country. A college degree is no longer a guarantee for employment. That is why we are paying attention to the establishment of vocational training schools, so as to teach skills to our people, through which they may be able to earn and support their families. Honesty, hard work, and discipline in work are necessary in this world of competition. The progress made by Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines is the result of hard work and discipline. Our people are also hardworking, and I am confident that they can fully compete with other countries in this regard.

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I visited several countries to create job opportunities inside Pakistan. We convened investment seminars and exhibitions for the promotion of exports. As a result of these foreign tours, memorandums of understanding [MoU's] for foreign investment worth $20 billion were signed within a short span of 20 months. [applause] In previous years, foreign investment worth only $2 billion was made in the private sector. This marks a major breakthrough as compared to the past. The MoU's worth $2 billion have already completed financial closure [preceding two words in English]. Foreign exchange worth $2 billion has flowed into our market during the past two years.

Today the amount of foreign exchange reserves stands at $2.7 billion, which was only $300 million at the time of the assumption of power by the people's government. There was nothing surprising in Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi's statement, when he stated that the previous governments had bankrupted our economy. Nobody says that today, however. Our economy grew 4 percent last year, up from 2 percent in the previous year. We registered a 4.4 percent growth in agriculture from the previous 2.9 percent. We recorded a 12 to 17 percent growth in exports. As a result of our efforts to control corruption, our tax collections have increased 30 percent.

For the past 30 years, our average budget deficit has been 7 percent of our GDP. When we assumed power, our budget deficit was 8 percent of the GDP. In the last fiscal year, this deficit declined to 5.6 percent, the lowest in the past 20 years. [applause] Our budget deficit is expected to decline to 5 percent by next June, which will be the lowest deficit rate since 1947. The rate of unemployment has also declined in our country. Despite this decline, however, the people's government is not satisfied with this situation because millions of people are still unemployed.

We are determined to continue our journey on the path of a strong economic system and social revolution. The country's socioeconomic (?condition) is regrettable as a result of the inept leadership, political instability, and economic inertia in the past. The people's government has embarked on a difficult task to rectify these defects. Nobody thought of setting up any hydroelectric project in Pakistan after the commissioning of the Tarbela Dam in 1962. We are initiating work on a 1400-megawatt hydroelectric project at Ghazi Barotha. We are implementing LDOD, RDOD [expansions unknown] projects to save low-lying lands from salinity and waterlogging. We have prepared plans to construct a canal in the Hal area of southern Punjab, which will bring hundreds of thousands of acres of land under cultivation. A dam will be constructed over Mona River in Balochistan. The dam will save rural areas from floods and provide irrigation facilities for 100,000 acres of land.

The problem of water was overlooked in Pakistan. This created a shortage of food and essential foodstuffs, like wheat, etc., which had to be imported. We are striving on a war-footing to end the water shortage. Similar efforts are also being made in the fields of education, health, and environment.

In the legislative area, 24 acts have been enacted from October 1993 to date. A total of 31 bills are pending in the National Assembly and eight in the Senate. The government has also set up several commissions and tribunals. A tribunal for disadvantaged persons [preceding four words in English] has been set up to look into excesses against women, minorities, and children. An inquiry commission has been formed to inquire into the death of Iqbal Masih [children's rights activist]. Another inquiry commission has been formed to look into the affairs of the Habib Bank and Mehran Bank.

The people's government has enacted legislation to grant autonomy to the State Bank of Pakistan and have enforced a law to impose an agricultural tax on wealthy landlords. The Labor Law Amendment Act of 1994 has been passed. A Family Act Amendment Act [as heard] of 1994 has been passed to provide assistance to women. Since most of the litigation concerning women is related to domestic affairs, we have amended the relevant law to set up at least one Islamic court at the level of each district, revenue area, and subdivision. The people's government has introduced a bill in the National Assembly to restore seats reserved for women in the legislatures, and we hope that the opposition will cooperate with us in this regard. We have also introduced a bill to increase punishment for stealing cars, in order to check this kind of crime.

Other than this, one more bill was introduced under which the Consumer Protection Council was established. The rights of consumers will be protected, and corrupt trade practices will be made cognizable offenses. The government has also introduced a bill to publish a list of defaulters on bank loans.

One more bill has been proposed under which each member of parliament will have to file the returns of his assets and liabilities to the chief election commissioner every year. The National Assembly is also considering a bill to avoid delays in dealing with criminal cases.

My dear countrymen! The people's government has wasted no time and has come a long way in the reconstruction of the nation and in strengthening and

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consolidating it. The speed and steadfastness with which the people's government has accomplished this legislative work is proof that it is a part of the democratic system and is accountable to the subjects of almighty God, the people of Pakistan. We pursued this path without any concern for fear or alarm and did not care about any obstacle put in the way of national progress because the people's government is committed to make Pakistan a great Islamic state through pursuing the direction shown by Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, which is also in line with our historical traditions.

Gone are the days when Pakistan was isolated. Pakistan was on the verge of being declared a terrorist state [preceding two words in English]. Pakistan faced unilateral pressure against its peaceful nuclear program. Pakistan had no idea about its role in the post-Cold War era. Today we have a clear perception, philosophy, and goal. We believe that Pakistan is a role model [preceding two words in English] in the Islamic world for peaceful constitutional and democratic change. We are playing a responsible role at the international level, and our brave soldiers are at their best in the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, Somalia, and other parts of the world. Our country is located at the confluence of Central Asia, the Persian Gulf, and South Asia. The new century will be an Asian century.

While entering this new century, Pakistan's eyes are fixed toward the east on ASEAN. Our ideology is trade instead of aid. We are the custodians of values and friendly people. We are waging a war against global issues of terrorism, narcotic smuggling, and illegal immigration. Today, the world has accepted our stand that the threat of the production and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction can be overcome only through regional and global efforts.

The President of the United States has said that it is unjust to block our equipment and our funds. This statement justifies Pakistan's stand. [applause] Pakistanis are a self-respecting nation and are always willing to die for their honor. Our national pride and honor guides our lives. Every Pakistani is willing to make any sacrifice for the nation and the country. This national pride and honor is a source of strength and power for the nation, which also protects it from all dangers.

The people's government has achieved many successes in the field of foreign policy [preceding two words in English] since October 1993. The OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference was held in Islamabad, which set up a contact group on Kashmir. We attended the Casablanca summit, where the OIC summit demanded for the first time that the Kashmir dispute be settled in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions. [applause]

The people's government is grateful to the chairman of the committee of both houses of parliament on Kashmir for his efforts in connection with the Kashmir dispute. In hosting the COMSTEC [OIC Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation] conference, Pakistan invited all Third World scientists to Islamabad and set up its head office there. Pakistan also convened a conference of member states of Economic Cooperation Organization, which included the Central Asian states, Turkey, and Afghanistan. The conference signed the protocols for four major projects for the first time.

Pakistan hosted the first ever conference of women parliamentarians, which rejected the myth that Muslim women do not enjoy equal rights. Women parliamentarians from 34 Muslim states attended this conference. This is the first time in history that Muslim working women assembled at one place in such a large number. Our sisters expressed solidarity with each other in one voice and proved that the message of Islam is one of equality, self-respect, and human rights. The efforts made by Pakistan and Pakistan's stand at the Cairo population conference on the solution of women's social problems have also been commended by the Islamic states.

Pakistan has extended total support to the Muslim brothers of Bosnia against Serb aggression. The women prime ministers of Pakistan and Turkey visited Sarajevo as an expression of solidarity with Bosnian Muslims. Pakistan was the first country to give 1 million dollars for the UN tribunal set up to try those who were involved in war crimes in Bosnia.

Pakistan has continuously and fully raised its voice in support of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Today the Jammu and Kashmir dispute has been accepted at the international level. The siege of the Hazratbal shrine and the act of arson at the Charar Sharif shrine was condemned the world over. We salute the courage and valor of the Kashmiri people. Their acts of valor and courage will be written in golden letters. [applause]

India's 600,000 troops are badly entangled in the Kashmir Valley. However, these 600,000 troops failed to crush the 3 million unarmed people of the valley. No oppressor can bridle the struggle of the people of Kashmir. Their valiant efforts will be crowned with success. As true freedom fighters, Kashmiris embraced the martyrdom rather than living without the right of self-determination.

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Pakistan-India relations have recently been strained due to the current freedom struggle in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan had proposed two non-papers [preceding word in English] to India, one of which was in connection with the modalities to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir; the second was about creating congenial conditions in Kashmir. The two proposals were aimed at finding a political solution to this problem according to international law. Unfortunately, India has rejected the two proposals.

Pakistan has welcomed the creation of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, which rejected the so-called elections in Jammu and Kashmir in the OIC Mecca Declaration and instead demanded a plebiscite. This should be made clear that rigged elections cannot establish peace in the blood-soaked valley. An uprising took place in Kashmir eight years ago, as a result of rigged elections. Both India and Pakistan will observe their 50th anniversary of independence within two years. Is it not unfortunate that both countries are being held hostage by the Kashmir situation even after about 50 years? We have complete confidence in the Kashmiri people's struggle. It is our faith that almighty God will crown their struggle with success.

A regrettable incident took place in Kashmir. A western tourist was assassinated. The government of Pakistan condemns this incident. These acts of violence are being committed by those who want to defame the struggle of the Kashmiri people. Pakistan and the Kashmiri leaders had appealed for the release of the tourists held hostages. However, enemies of the freedom of Kashmir did not release them. Once again, I appeal for immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages.

My dear countrymen, while I address you today under the shadow of this green crescent flag in front of the Parliament, my mind goes out to Siachen [glacier]. A few days ago, I visited our valiant officers and soldiers, who were discharging their duties in that icy valley where even breathing is difficult. Our commandos have completed exercises amid high mountain rocks with faith in Almighty God and with enormous courage and determination. Even a minor mistake could have become the cause of death, but our valorous soldiers conducted their exercises without exhibiting any sense of fear. We are proud of these soldiers. These brethren of ours are the defenders of our borders. I am greatly impressed by their fearlessness. Their courage and fearlessness has enabled the entire nation to lift its head high with pride. [applause]

During this very week, I also met with the families who have been affected by floods, whose homes and hearths and all their belongings have been washed away by floods. Relatives of some of these families have lost their lives as a result of these floods. Despite this tragedy, I saw in their eyes a glimpse of their determination to reconstruct their homes and to begin their lives afresh. As a Pakistani, I am proud of these sisters and brothers. We have inherited the blood of our forefathers, who fought against an empire and achieved a new motherland for ourselves. Our arteries carry the blood of Muslim saints and holy men from Hazrat Dataganj Bakhsh to Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar. If we were to channel our energy in the right direction, I am confident we will be able to overcome all the obstacles that lie in our way of building a progressive nation.

We have journeyed a long distance since 1947, and our journey is still continuing. We heard the recitation of the holy Koran in the unruffled mountains of Siachen. The sacred words, which were revealed to Hazrat Muhammad, the last prophet of God, may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him, were reverberating in the mountains. On the occasion of this Independence Day, I want every Pakistani to pray from the depth of his heart that Almighty God may crown our struggle with success — the struggle in which workers and traders, farmers and government employees, and the old and the young all are participating.

Let us make a pledge today not to flinch from making any sacrifice for the country and to work for peace, to strive hard for economic progress, and to fight for social justice. Come, my dear countrymen. Let us kindle the lamps of love and affection and spread the light of tolerance and brotherhood. This will brighten the paths to our future and enable us to reach our development goals. Only then will our independence become true independence and Pakistan, the real Pakistan. Come, let us repeat the pledge of the great leader [Mohammad Ali Jinnah] that under the shadow of this flag we are all one. We are all one. We equally share our happiness and sorrows. We are one, we are one, we are one, we are all one. Long Live Pakistan!

'Strong Resentment' Voiced Over Indian Charges

BK1508133295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has expressed strong resentment at the accusations made against Pakistan by the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in his address on India's Independence Day. In a statement, the foreign minister said the assertions of the Indian prime minister regarding Pakistan's alleged responsibility for the murder of a Norwegian tourist in Indian-held Kashmir are not only baseless but also highly irresponsible. It was not expected that the holder of this high office would engage

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in such slanderous attacks in a vain attempt to divert attention from India's own failings.

The foreign minister recalled that the Government of Pakistan had time and again condemned taking of hostages and other acts of terrorism whatever the circumstances may be. The current kidnapping took place in highly suspicious circumstances. The area in which the kidnapping occurred has at least one group that operates under the direct control of Indian intelligence agencies. The objective of the kidnappers is clearly to discredit the popular movement in Indian-held Kashmir. The regrettable attempt by the Indian prime minister to somehow pin the blame on Pakistan appears to fit into a familiar pattern of Indian tactics.

Islamabad Protest Marks Indian Independence Day

BK1508135895 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 15 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A protest demonstration was staged in Islamabad today marking black day on the Independence Day of India. A large number of people, including women, participated in the protest rally. The demonstrators carried banners and placards with slogans against Indian atrocities and in favor of the right of self-determination for Kashmiris. They urged the United Nations, international human rights organizations, and Islamic countries to help resolve the Kashmir problem in accordance with UN resolution. A memorandum was handed over to the Indian High Commission demanding immediate halt to genocide of Kashmiris by Indian forces.

Radio Reports on Peshawar Unrest, Clashes

BK1208135895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Political Administration of Khyber Agency has taken a serious view of the illegal activities of the Islahi [reforms] Committee, Bara, particularly the road blockade by the armed men under its command. In this connection, the Political Administration has been holding talks with the elders of the so-called Islahi Committee, but they refused to cease the hostile activities and lift the road blockade. In a handout issued in Peshawar, the Political Administration of Khyber Agency has leveled different charges against the Islahi Committee, Bara, including giving protection to proclaimed offenders, drugs and armed smugglers, and organizing violence in Bara Tehsil [revenue district]. The charges also include the forcible detention of two officers of the Scouts. It says the political authorities have expressed the determination to restore law and order and have appealed to all sane elements of the agency to help in the restoration of peaceful atmosphere.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1246 GMT on 12 August, in a Peshawar date lined report, adds: "A dozen people were killed and 18 injured Saturday [12 August] as Pakistani paramilitary forces battled armed tribesmen resisting federal policy in this semi-autonomous northwestern region, tribal and official sources said. Earlier, officials had reported eight dead and nine injured.

"Paramilitary officials said they lost five men in the clashes at Bara — a nearby market for arms, narcotics and smuggled goods brought in from neighbouring Afghanistan. They said that six militia personnel were among the injured.

"A ceasefire went into effect after eight hours of fighting, following negotiations between government officials and a local tribal council, officials said, adding the area was now calm.

"It was mutually agreed that no side would take any action until further negotiations on August 20 over tribal grievances, including the arrest of the head of a religious body, they said.

"The Bara shooting erupted in the early hours when the security forces moved in after sealing off the area."]

Peshawar 'Press Note' Details Clashes

BK1208160895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press note issued by the Khyber Agency Political Administration in Peshawar this evening, members of the Frontier Corps launched an operation to remove roadblocks that have been erected by antisocial elements in Bara revenue district over the past several days. The antisocial elements resorted to firing with heavy weapons, including mortar guns [preceding two words in English], on workers of the law enforcement agencies at several locations. As a result, five workers of the law enforcement agencies were killed and eight injured. In retaliatory firing by the law enforcement agencies, four antisocial elements were killed and 12 injured.

The press note says that roadblocks have been removed at (Korasapin Kabar) and surrounding areas and the rule of law has been restored there.

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